Discovery of 5,000 year old grave plot diverts new gasline

By EUGENE PHelan

The field where archaeologists have been digging.

The pipeline which will bring natural gas to Limerick has had to be diverted at Knocklong following a discovery by archaeologists of a 5,000-year-old grave plot known as a barrow complex. The Office of Public Works in Dublin have told the owners of the 10-acre site at Elton, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Regan, that the protection of the complex is a matter of national importance.

Mr. and Mrs. Regan, who are very interested in archeology, are keen to maintain the graves and would like to see a proper dig of the site started.

However, Mr. Con Sheahan, the Director of the Office of Public Works in Dublin, this week that it was unlikely that a dig would be started in the near future.

He stated that the barrow complexes were very rare and praised the Regans for their interest and enthusiasm in keeping the monument intact.

Last April archaeologists started a dig in the field next to the barrow complex as the pipeline is now due to go through that area.

This field is also owned by the Regan's, while it is still unconfirmed, Mrs. Patricia Regan believes that they may find some bones, as a spear in the field next to the barrow complex was found.

She says that the unusual thing about the field containing the ancient graves is that it has never been touched and the barrow is thought to be in perfect condition.

Circular

There are 16 circular barrows in the field and these go back to the Bronze Age and could be there for over 5,000 years.

The laying of the pipeline in the field and the complex will begin in a few weeks and archaeologists employed by Bord Gas are closely watching all the work that is taking place in the area.

The barrow complex was spotted after aerial photographs were taken last year of the area.

However, it was only this week that the discovery was announced by the Regan family.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for An Bord Gais said that there was no chance of the pipeline being excluded from the site of the barrow complex.

The spokesman said that the company had continued to work along the route of the pipeline.

It was confirmed that there was a number of bronze age "minor finds" on the Regan property next to the barrow.

Atlantic hero back on Wednesday

By LEADER REPORTER

PAT LAWLESS, 60 - old boatyard owner ever to cross the Atlantic - will return in triumph to Limerick next week.

He will arrive at Shannon on Wednesday at 7 a.m.

Pat, the first solo sailor to traverse the ocean from the Shannon Estuary, said of his endeavor:

"It will be a great honor to sail the Limerick Leader. I can't get over the interest being taken.

Grandefather Pat got set out from Limerick Dock on May 30 and took 58 days to arrive at Newport, Rhode Island, last Sunday night last.

Surprise

Once he hit the Atlantic he never made landfall and because he was going so well dropped a plan to land at the mainland.

Sons Dan and Peter along with daughter Helen jetted out to the State to give him a surprise welcome when he docked at Newport.

But Pat, 27, the American who has been training for the Atlantic Ocean crossing, was still on his own when he landed at Newport.

His crossing has grabbed the attention of the media in the U.S. who have requested interviews with the Cordahab cabinet-maker. His wish, Nancy, will he at Shamus Airport to meet his wife.

The KilnabrockIndustrialFameOfTownIsSpreading

By PATRICIA FEEHLY

The name of Kilnamlock is fast becoming a byword in some of the biggest hospitals in Ireland and in Southern Italy, as the town prepares to celebrate its biggest industrial success in recent years with the official opening of Tullamore Ireland Ltd on Tuesday.

The ceremony will be performed by Minister for State, Mr. Eddie Collins, chairperson of the Limerick Industrial and Commercial, Mr. Michael Noonan.

Jubilant

The Kilnabrock Industrial Estate is the site of a major new industrial development, and the people of Kilnamlock are delighted to have such a major event taking place in their town.

Kilnamlock-bound: Minister Collins at EEC award-winning Coburns power station in Glencar, Co. Kerry, which was commissioned by Process Control, Cork.