

# INSIDE THE HOUSE



# FIDDLE HOUSE ON THE PRAYERIE

**IT WAS** a house visit that Christina Gallagher's right-hand man in America never expected.

Businessman John Rooney – whose name is on the deeds of the fake visionary's fabulous €4 million Malahide mansion – was stunned when the *Sunday World* suddenly turned up on his doorstep in deepest Ohio last week.

The 64-year-old Irish American was at first speechless.....and then apoplectic with rage.

"Get off my property. If you don't get off my property right now I will call the sheriff," snarled the clearly shaken House of Prayer bigwig.

### Quivering

Not only did Gallagher's American fundraiser refuse to answer any questions about where all the millions of euro donated by Irish Catholics had gone, but he could hardly speak at all.

His lips were literally quivering with shock and his voice came in uneven bursts as he ordered this *Sunday World* reporter to move away from his comfortable home at the end of a private lane outside the town of Steubenville.

"You are standing on my land. Get in your car and get out of here right now and if you ever come back I will call the sheriff," he demanded.

*When we pointed out we just wanted to know why he is listed as the owner of Christina Gallagher's magnificent Millionaire's Row mansion, he again ordered me into my car.*

"You mean....you just got on a plane and came to my home," he said incredulously.

Suddenly demanding to see identification, he looked at my press card and said: "I've read your stuff."

I pointed out that we were just trying to find out how Gallagher was leading such a wealthy lifestyle – and why her followers had been asked

## We track Christina's money man to derelict Ohio town



to sign cheques to Rooney's own name at the time he became official owner of her mansion.

Realising that I was not going to get anywhere with this fanatical supporter of Christina Gallagher, I took off. None of her top aides have ever agreed to speak to us.

The *Sunday World* also visited the massive House of Prayer that Rooney and his wife Joanne helped to build with donations sent from Ireland and across America.

### Stark

Amazingly, it sits on the edge of a tiny deprived town called Smithfield, a dozen miles from Steubenville, where every other shop seems to be boarded up or for rent.

The gleaming House of Prayer, by far the biggest building for miles, was a stark contrast to the dilapidated main street just a few hundred yards away where some shops open only two days a week and where life seems worlds away from that of Christina Gallagher.

One local revealed that the Rooneys met