



DEBT: Michael Jackson

Jackson to sell Beatle catalogue

By MIKE PARKER

MICHAEL Jackson has been told he must sell-off his rights to 251 Beatles songs to settle more than \$24 million in loans on his Neverland Ranch or face bankruptcy proceedings by the end of this month.

The singer has just 17 days, until March 19, to settle his massive debt on the sprawling, 2,800-acre property in Santa Ynez, 112 miles north of Los Angeles, which has remained empty since his child molestation trial in May, 2005.

Jolt

Creditors Fortress Finance intend to auction Neverland and its contents if he fails to meet the deadline but, in a new jolt to Jackson yesterday, it was revealed that his one-time fantasy playground may no longer be worth even the \$24 million he owes on it.

He bought it for \$30 million in 1988 from golf course entrepreneur William Bone at the height of a property boom. But southern California is in the throes of a home loan crisis, with tumbling prices and record foreclosures throughout the region.

Sources estimate its worth at only \$6 million, although it is believed he may get \$12 million for it.

That would leave Jackson (49) still owing \$12 million plus. Jackson's financial advisers have told him to sell his share of the Beatles' back catalogue he jointly owns with Sony / ATV Music Publishing.

One interested party is certain to be Sir Paul McCartney, who has never forgiven Jackson for snapping them up.

COPS BUST JEWEL HEIST

JEWELLERY thieves escaped with several hundred thousand euro worth of stock during a raid yesterday.

Gardai in Dublin are investigating the early morning robbery which happened at Ronan Campbell Jewellers in the Citywest shopping complex in west Dublin at around 1am.

It is understood gardai, who were alerted to the raid, arrived on the scene as the men were leaving.

A chase ensued, and one of the raiders was captured by gardai.



DIE-HARD FOLLOWERS: Pilgrims at the House of Prayer, Achill Sound, Co. Mayo recently. Right, Christina Gallagher, who is lying low since Sunday World exposed the church

Former members seek legal help to get donations back

By JACK GLEESON

GARDAI have launched an official probe into huge cash donations made by devotees to the controversial House of Prayer on Achill Island.

Detectives are planning to interview key figures involved in the church and have already quizzed former members about a number of large donations.

The investigation follows *Sunday World's* exclusive revelations that self-proclaimed visionary and founder of the House of Prayer, Christina Gallagher, is living a life of luxury in a €4 million mansion.

The House of Prayer is also facing more criticism from pulpits around the country. Archbishop of Tuam, Dr Michael Neary, will distribute a letter to all parishes warning Catholics that the Archdiocese of Tuam doesn't approve of the centre on Achill.

Warned

The statement will be sent out in the coming weeks and each parish will decide whether to read it from the altar or publish it in church newsletters.

Former leading member at the House of Prayer, Michael McCorry, said members were now coming forward with even more allegations about Christina Gallagher.

"The good people of Achill Island warned me repeatedly about her years ago but I was hard headed and wouldn't listen," he said.

"Now I urge others not to be intimidated.

"It is time for the legions of followers and donors who, like me, have seen the light - and I know of so many out there - to come



QUESTIONS: Christina's mansion in Mayo (left) and Dublin (right). Inset, former leading member Michael McCorry



EXPENSIVE: Christina Gallagher in her 7 series BMW

forward."

McCorry says members who made large donations have now taken legal representation in an effort to get their cash back.

He claims some have made donations totalling €200,000 made up of individual cheques for as much as €50,000.

"Some have donated hun-

COPS PROBE HOUSE OF PRAYER CASH



LETTER: Archbishop Neary

increasing pressure following revelations about her wealth in *Sunday World*.

We revealed how the woman who claims she has no interest in material wealth moved into an Italian style mansion set 1.2 acres in Malahide two years ago.

Exposed

Followers were also stunned when we exposed how Gallagher, who doesn't work, had splashed out on nearly €1 million on another mansion outside Ballina where her daughter Mary lives.

She has still yet to explain how she funds her lavish lifestyle which includes a top-of-the-range seven series BMW worth at

least €110,000.

Michael McCorry said followers were now questioning where the money used to fund her apparent luxury lifestyle had come from.

"If we are to judge only by what we can see - her jewellery, clothes, cars, tastes, family owned houses, artwork, furniture and accessories - we would have to conclude that here is a woman who has gone from rags to riches double quick," he said.

"There is no evidence of a simple life on her part, yet many of her followers who do lead a simple life are the ones who have sacrificed and donated to her cause."

McCorry told *Sunday World* yesterday that sever-

al members had defected and those who have donated large amounts could join the legal battle to get their money back.

"We have some people who already have representation," he said.

Several members have abandoned the church since our revelations despite constant denials and attacks on this newspaper from die-hard followers.

Rise

Gallagher's astonishing rise from being an ordinary housewife and mum-of-two began when she claimed she was receiving regular messages from God two decades ago.

She later added that she had developed the stigmata wounds of Christ - a claim rubbished by church officials.

A spokesperson for Archbishop Neary said a commission set up to investigate the stigmata "found no evidence to substantiate any supernatural happenings."

The House of Prayer has fallen from favour since it was opened in 1993. The Church initially backed it because it was believed it would be used as a place of retreat for priests to pray.

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