

The vision expands for writer's house

by Marie Hobbins

THE Limerick born conservation architect who is currently drawing up a feasibility study for the renovation of Boru House, Mulgrave Street, the childhood home of Kate O'Brien, has revealed details of his preliminary concept.

"My preliminary concept is an "adaptive reuse" of the building as the Kate O'Brien House and Book Writers Museum of Limerick. It may be an interactive museum where you can come at certain hours and experience a reading or recital and a meal at the dining room table, as Kate O'Brien may have experienced," he told the Limerick Post.

"The upper floors of the house could be considered for commercial use as a "historic bed and breakfast" where visitors can come and stay in the rooms and ambience of the famous author and her family as they were during her lifetime. This would also accommodate 'writers in transition and the temporary housing of other visitors and dignitaries to our city."

Mr Quinlan's plan for the 3,347 square metre yard area to the rear of the house includes "a period hotel/town housing/ genealogy centre/ public library or a micro winery "and some possible reference to Frank McCourt and his dedication to the teaching of creative writing, as well as space for literary and



Writer Kate O'Brien.

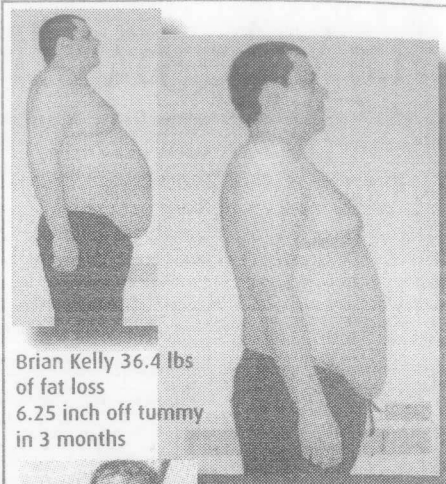
poetry evenings. The end product to be an interactive writers' centre that can be self sustaining, such as Bunratty."

Mr Quinlan, who has vast experience as a conservation architect in the restoration of period buildings, refers to a report in the late Jim Kemmy's Limerick Compendium of 1997, that Kate O'Brien attended the opening of the newly restored Bunratty Caste.

"Kate O'Brien would most cer-

tainly be very pleased to know that such a concept is now being considered for her childhood home in Limerick city," Mr Quinlan told this reporter.

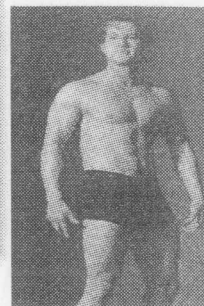
In frequent communication with cllrs Jim Long and Tom Shortt, Mr Quinlan says while the project is "a mammoth task at a time of economic hardship," the council may be able to secure capital funding for the protected building, under Heritage allocations.



Brian Kelly 36.4 lbs of fat loss
6.25 inch off tummy
in 3 months



Joe, 32,
after 3 months



Christina Collins gained 15lbs of Muscle
- Lost 5 inches of fat

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