

# Laurel Hill pays tribute to Kate

THE first dedicated memorial to one of Ireland's most celebrated writers, Kate O'Brien, was unveiled this week.

And fittingly Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ, where Kate attended, are the instigators behind the honouring of the renowned author. The Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Jack Bourke, officially opened the Kate O'Brien Library on Monday.

The new library houses the complete collection of the Limerick author's literary works, including the novel inspired by her experiences at Laurel Hill, *The Land of Spices*.

This work has recently been added to the Leaving Certificate syllabus. The library also houses other information on the writer and art works of interest to the public.

Kate O'Brien once wrote: "It was in Limerick I began to view the world and to develop the necessary passion with which to judge it. I know that wherever I am it is still from Limerick that I look out and make my surmises." Now it is Limerick's and Laurel Hill Secondary School's turn to honour the writer who never lost her affection for the city she referred to as "my dear native place".

The chairman of the board of management, Michael Punch, with board members, celebrated the realisation of their dream through the dedication of the library to Kate O'Brien.

The official blessing was conducted by school chaplain Fr JJ Keane. Others present were sisters of the Laurel Hill FCJ community, members of the staff, library development committee, Rosemary O'Brien and her



At the opening of the Kate O'Brien Library in Laurel Hill, from left: Jane Cregan, Sr Margaret Quirk, FCJ, principal; Cllr Jack Bourke, Mayor of Limerick; Michael Punch, chairman, board of management and Rachel Gallivan

son, Donough, students past and present; parents and the many friends of the school.

Meanwhile, the school will launch its website for the academic year 2000 / 2001 shortly. They envisage this website will become a very important platform for students, past pupils, parents and the public to be kept informed of the school's educational programme and on-going achievements in debating, music, choral and sporting activities.

One novel feature is a noticeboard for past pupils. This will enable them to keep in touch with past pupils, advise of their successes and keep their strong bond with Laurel Hill.

Guests at this week's library opening also congratulated students who received the d'Honnelt Award for excellence and the board of management's essay winners.

## Death of ex-Aer Lingus manager

THE death has occurred of Gerry Geraghty, otherwise known as Gearoid Mac Oireachtaí, former manager of Aer Lingus for the south-west of Ireland.

Aged 81, he was a native of Ballymo, Galway, and resided on North Circular Road.

The late Mr Geraghty was preceded by his wife, Edith, in 1978, and subsequently remarried. He is survived by his six children, Peter, Sile, Colum, Eilin, Ciarán and Píntín.

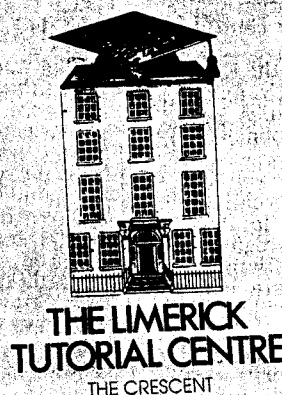
Deceased was particularly interested in languages and history, and travelled extensively. He was also a member of Rotary, the Lions Club and Skel. He attended Blackrock College and was prominent in athletics and rugby.



Gerry Geraghty RIP

Gerry Boland, who succeeded Mr Geraghty as district manager with Aer Lingus, described him as a man of very strong convictions, with a great love for the Irish language.

He was very popular with staff and had tremendous wit. Prior to coming to Limerick, he served with Aer Lingus in London and Glasgow.



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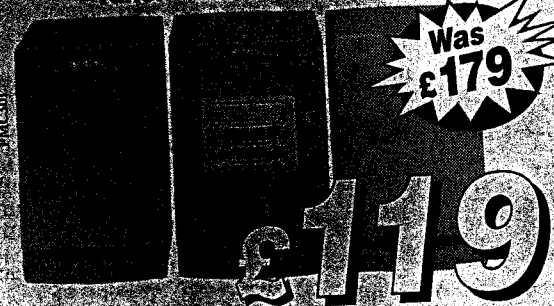
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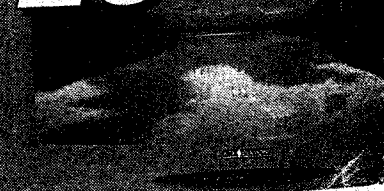
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