



SOAP STARS - Glenroe children from Bray...three year old Blanaid Treacy and her six year old brother Naoise.

Now two Treacy kids in Glenroe

HE IS ONLY six years old, but already Bray boy Naoise Treacy has made his big television break by landing a regular role in RTE's TAM-topping Glenroe.

But when it comes to junior stardom even Naoise can't hold a candle to his little sister Blanaid who is a veteran of three seasons of Glenroe at the tender age of three!

The story of this brother and sister's involvement with RTE's popular Sunday night soap began three years ago when the storyline demanded that a camera friendly baby be found to play the role of Biddy and Miley's new baby daughter.

So it was that three months old Blanaid, with proud mother Ann Treacy from Newcourt Road on hand to mind her

new baby, made her first appearance in the series.

Having been virtually born into it, little Blanaid is very much at home in front of the cameras and has just started filming her fourth season with her screen parents Mary McEvoy and Michael Lally, 'grandad' Joe Lynch and the rest of the cast. 'Because they already knew me and Blanaid, the producers came along and asked me if there was anyone else in the family who would be interested in playing the role of Michelle's (Isobel Mahon) young son Ricky,' said Ann.

'So that's how Naoise got involved and although he is normally very quiet and shy, he has taken to it very well. He has already appeared in one episode, but he hasn't been bothered by the notice this got him at school, or from friends or anything,' she added.

□ By Jan Van Embden. Pic: Dave O'Connor.

Horizon to merge with rival?

BRAY BASED Horizon Radio is set to merge with a rival south Wicklow station in a bid to remain financially viable.

The possibility of a merger agreement between Horizon and Wicklow town based Easy 103 has become increasingly more likely in recent weeks with both facing uncertain futures.

On Wednesday morning last, the recently appointed new Chief Executive of Horizon Dave Heffernan confirmed that merger talks had just begun between the two sides.

He said that Horizon's own staff had only been informed of the development on Tuesday evening last and that it was still too early to make any major comment.

'I can confirm that serious talks are taking place and have just started, but they are really at a very early stage,' he said.

He anticipated that the discussions between the two sides could take several weeks, at which point he hoped to be in a position to say more about the future of Horizon.

This week's development comes just a little more than three months after shareholders in the original Horizon Co-operative voted through major changes in the station's rules to allow outside investment by major business into the Bray broadcasting operation for the first time.

A new company titled Pacific

By Jan Van Embden

Holdings was set up to control the station in which business people and other investors would be invited to buy shares.

At the time of these rule changes, shareholders were presented with a grim picture of Horizon's financial situation and bluntly told that without outside investment, the station would close down.

In the wake of the rule changes however, Horizon has yet to attract any major investors, although Mr. Heffernan said this week said that strong interest had been shown and that serious discussions were taking place, although these would now have to be put on hold pending the outcome of the merger talks.

He also claimed that while Horizon had suffered a bad year up to last May when the station's difficult situation was outlined as the shareholders' meeting, it had since then 'turned the corner' and the situation was improving.

A spokeswoman for the Independent Radio and Television Commission said that they were awaiting the outcome of the merger talks between Horizon and Easy 103 before making any comment on the proposals.

She did say however that the Commission was in principal in favour of a merger between the two stations, but refrained from any further comment.

While circumspect in its public comments, it is understood that the IRTC is in fact very much in favour of a merger agreement as it sees this as the only way to create a single, viable radio station to serve all of County Wicklow. Indeed, it has been learned locally that the Commission has strongly conveyed its support for a merger to the two parties over recent months.

Like Horizon, Easy 103 was one of the dozens of local radio services to be licensed by the IRTC under Minister Ray Burke's Broadcasting Bill, but unlike Horizon, was much slower getting off the mark.

Set up by a group of local businessmen, the new station was not ready to get onto the airwaves until last August and after a year of broadcasting, it too is facing a difficult future.

Lack of revenue from their relatively small advertising income is a problem for both stations and Horizon in particular is facing increasing pressure as a result of its large bank loan.

AUTOCROSS CAR RACING

R.I.A.C. Championship Event
at NEWCASTLE
This Sunday, 25th August
starting 2pm. Entry £2.00

Martin Byrne Motors

BRAY. Main Sponsor

See our display of Citroen and Alfa Romeos at the Autocross

CITROEN AX starting from	£8,420
CITROEN ZX starting from	£10,970
CITROEN BX starting from	£13,420
CITROEN XM starting from	£21,470
ALFA ROMEO 33 starting from	£11,195
ALFA ROMEO 75 starting from	£18,057
ALFA ROMEO 164 2 litre from	£21,953

Martin Byrne Motors

INDUSTRIAL YARNS, BRAY

Tel: 01-2868317/2862797

MAIN DEALER

CITROEN Alfa Romeo

FICTION ★ FACT ★ FUN
FOR ALL THE FAMILY
ON SALE EVERY WEEK
ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

Ireland's Own

THE WEEK WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT IT! — PASS ON YOUR COPY

Stories ★ Puzzles
Jokes ★ Pen Friends

MEET 'OWEN' EACH WEEK
IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION