



ROLF HARRIS



by PATRICK DONCASTER
THE MIRROR'S DJ

WANTED: ONE DIDGERIDOO

THEY wanted a didgeridoo—badly. But the didgeridoo is rare in Britain. And above all they wanted someone to play it (no, it's not a bird).

It is a primitive wind instrument that comes easily to the Australian aborigine, who fashions it from a hollow reed. It emits a buzzing, bagpipe-like note that is held for just over two minutes.

And didgeridoo players are born rather than made, so Australian entertainer Rolf Harris tells me.

SO RARE

Rolf, the man who hit the charts two years ago with his "Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport" and his wobble-board, was in London to make a new disc for Columbia. And they wanted a didgeridoo for the authentic rhythm.

"But there wasn't a didgeridoo player to be found," said Rolf.

Not surprising since most of them reside in the Australian outback.

After two hours' work, Mr. Harris and the studio chiefs got as near to the sound of a didgeridoo as possible without going halfway round the world.

Ingredients: two cellos, one double bass and a piano all holding the note of E for two minutes.

DAWN-SONG

The sound, which dominates the record, is strangely attractive. And so is the song, "Sun Arise."

"It is based on an aboriginal chant," said Rolf.

"They sing it as dawn breaks and it has fascinated me for a long time."

Rolf duets with himself on this one and also supplies a rhythm by banging together two sticks. Aboriginal sticks, of course.

I find it all very fascinating. And so will you.