

Rolf Harris the great Australian entertainer appears at The Glen Eagle, Killarney next week. Bobby Lynch profiles the man who has made so many people laugh.



Rolf Harris.

A sport you can't tie down

SINGER, songwriter, musician, recording artist, television personality, artist and funny man, that's Rolf Harris.

Rolf was born on March 30th, 1930 and brought up in Perth in Western Australia. His parents emigrated from Cardiff in South Wales. When he was 22 he withdrew £207 of his life savings from the bank and sailed for Great Britain. His first move was to enrol in an art college which he paid for by working at night as a cabaret singer.

Then he reached the stage where he had to choose between art and showbusiness, and showbusiness came out on top.

In 1964 he and his Welsh wife, Alwen had their first child, a daughter named Bindi. He wrote his most

famous song "Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport" for her.

He wrote the song in England and shortly afterwards returned to Australia to paint on a kiddies tv show for one year.

The song caught on down under and eventually won him a gold disc. It was also received well in Great Britain, Canada and in the USA.

Since then, of course, there have been numerous successes on vinyl. Among them, the phenomenally successful "Two Little Boys" which proved to be a number one all around the world. It stayed at number one in Great Britain for the longest period since Engelbert Humperdick's "Last Waltz" hit in 1967. Throughout the 1970s Rolf Harris consolidated his posi-

tion as one of the world's leading entertainers while he also made a number of TV documentaries about the Australian culture and its people.

In 1966 there were return visits to Canada where he became president of the charity PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) and he made a film called "Kids Can Say No" a short documentary about child sexual abuse.

Ask Rolf Harris about the highlights of his life and you'll hear of a swimming championship win at the age of ten, being presented with an O.B.E. and finding a woman who'd marry him.

Ask him about his ambitions and he'll tell you simply, create and to entertain.