


Woe Are Fans of Lake Wobegone Show

By Dennis McDougal
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**Radio host Garrison Keillor
Last shows will be on Disney Channel**

HOLLYWOOD — The Powdermilk Biscuit company, Bertha's Kitty Boutique and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery will soon go belly up, and already tickets to the wake look as if they are going to be scalped at premium prices.

When the entire town of Lake Wobegone, Minn., vanishes from the airwaves June 13, a \$12 ticket to witness the farewell of long, tall Garrison Keillor and his "A Prairie Home Companion" could cost as much as a ticket to the Super Bowl.

"Calls are running at about 3,000 a day and the World Theater only holds 1,000 people," said William Kling, president of Minnesota Public Radio, which produces Keillor's program. "By the end of this week, we expect to have received 22,000 calls about tickets and there are only 17 shows left."

The best-selling author of "Lake Wobegone Days" said he would return to being "a shy person" after 13 years as radio's pre-eminent

St. Paul, Minn., June 13.

Keillor said he planned to write and had no immediate plans to return to broadcasting.

"I want to resume the life of a shy person and live with my affectionate family a more peaceful life, a life in which there are Saturdays," Keillor told his audience. "I want to be a writer again."

Keillor could not be reached for comment, but his longtime producer Kling said that "I can't tell you much more than what he said. He's worked here for almost 19 years, 13 of which were with 'Prairie Home.' I can tell you that on three previous occasions he has stopped broadcasting to write."

Meanwhile, Kling has hired another 44-year-old to replace Keillor. National Public Radio's Noah Adams, co-host of the network's afternoon news magazine, "All Things Considered," recently told his audience that he would soon be leaving for Minnesota to develop a new Saturday-night program that would include many of the successful elements of "A Prairie Home Companion" as well as some surprises.

Though Adams' two-hour variety show will not be unveiled until late April when public radio officials gather in Columbia, Mo., for their annual conference, Kling said it would not be a copy of "A Prairie Home Companion." The new program will premiere on Minnesota Public Radio in June and will be offered nationally by September.

Though the live Keillor program will disappear, diehard fans still will have access to Lake Wobegone in reruns.

Earlier this month, Minnesota Public Radio and Disney Channel officials announced that the two-hour weekly radio program of music and storytelling would become a 90-minute television series on the Disney Channel beginning March 7.

Kling said that the last 14 shows would be taped and broadcast on the cable channel later on the same Saturday night that the radio show is broadcast. He said the programs may be rebroadcast later in the year and would also be made available on videocassette.

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