

Gettysburg College will hear Keillor

Garrison Keillor, best-known author and folksy host of radio show "A Prairie Home Companion," will be the commencement speaker at Gettysburg College May 17, College President Charles E. Glassick announced recently.

"Keillor was our first choice and only choice," said Assistant to the President Julie Ramsey. "He is a very talented and well-known individual - a person the entire college community can appreciate. The senior class officers wanted a lighter side to commencement this year. Mr. Keillor's reputation as a humorist and storyteller fit the bill."

Keillor is also on the board of advisors for The Gettysburg Review, a literary quarterly the college will publish. Editor and English Professor Peter Stitt says the first issue is scheduled to appear in January 1988.

"Peter Stitt is a good friend of mine and he asked me to accept the engagement," Keillor said. "I owed him three letters, so I said I'd accept."

Keillor was born in Anoka, Minn., in 1942, and grew up there. He graduated from the University of Minnesota, where he studied English and began his radio career at the student station. In the summer of 1968, he became the host of an early morning program at KSJR FM in Collegeville - "the studio in the oats." On this show, which he continued to do until 1982, he first began to talk about Lake Wobegon, the mythical Minnesota town featured in his radio monologues.

Keillor is a frequent contributor to



Garrison Keillor is the host of "A Prairie Home Companion"

The New Yorker and The Atlantic. Happy to Be Here, a collection of his short pieces from those magazines, was published in 1982. His first novel, Lake Wobegon Days, was published in 1985 and immediately became the nation's number one best seller. More than 1.2 million copies were sold, making it that year's top hardcover fiction seller.

"A Prairie Home Companion" is pro-

duced by Minnesota Public Radio and distributed nationally by American Public Radio. Keillor announced recently that the final performance of the show will be June 13. When the show first appeared July 6, 1974, those onstage often outnumbered the studio audience. It is now broadcast live from the restored World Theater in St. Paul, Minn., every Saturday at 6 p.m. East-

ern time. It is aired on more than 270 stations nationwide, reaching an audience estimated to be between three and four million.

The show has won numerous accolades, including a George Foster Peabody Award - one of the industry's highest honors. Keillor himself has received the Edward R. Murrow Award in 1985.