

Keillor brings radio show back to Lake Wobegon area

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Author and humorist Garrison Keillor will again make the World Theater in St. Paul, Minn., the home base of his weekly public radio program.

After nearly five years of self-imposed exile, most of it spent in New York City, the Anoka native plans to return in July, the *Star Tribune* reported in Saturday's editions.

Keillor plans to live in western Wisconsin, where he has bought wooded land. He also has purchased a small log house built by Swedish immigrants a century ago, and plans to move it onto the property, the newspaper said.

Keillor shut down his *A Prairie Home Companion* in 1987 at the height of the radio show's popularity. He then left the Twin Cities

complaining that a prying local press robbed him of his privacy.

"I think five years of exile solves a person's problems very neatly, very nicely," Keillor said.

"The main reason for moving back is that I can't talk about Lake Wobegon and not live here," said the author of *Lake Wobegon Days*, a 1985 best-seller about the mythical town.

MPR President Bill Kling said he expects an enthusiastic reaction from the 273 public radio stations



Garrison Keillor

that carry Keillor's show. He said many station managers and program directors have commented over the past 2½ years that they believed Keillor's storytelling would be more effective if it were coming from Lake Wobegon country instead of Manhattan.

Keillor said he plans to do 32 original editions of *American Radio Company* next season, beginning in October. He said about 18 editions of the show will originate from the World Theater, with eight to 10 from New York and the rest performed on the road.

He said Rob Fisher, who conducts the Coffee Club Orchestra, and other *Radio Company* regulars, such as actress-singer Ivy Austin, plan to stay with the show.