

O woe! Keillor show will be gone

By JERE HESTER

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Come July, humorist Garrison Keillor is leaving the Big Apple to return to the origins of "the little town that time forgot, and the decades cannot improve."

The radio show host is taking his folksy "American Radio Company" to the World Theater in St. Paul — the theater where his famed "A Prairie Home Companion" got its start in 1974.

In 1987, Keillor ended the popular radio show, which combined music and stories about the fictional small town of Lake Wobegon, vowing he'd never return to St. Paul. He briefly lived in Sweden and later settled in Manhattan.

In 1989, he started "American Ra-

dio Company," which broadcast variously from the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Lamb's Theatre and Symphony Space. The weekly show is carried on nearly 275 radio stations and can be heard locally on WNYC AM and FM.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Keillor has bought a small log house in a wooded section of western Wisconsin, where he plans to move this summer.

But the 49-year-old writer and monologist isn't severing his city ties. He plans to keep his Central Park West apartment and will broadcast 8 to 10 shows from New York next season.

"I like the city as much as ever," he told the Star Tribune. "But it's not a great place for the show. We're really tourists in New York."