

Keillor's new digs close to his ghosts

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Garrison Keillor says he's happy to be living closer — but not too close — to the familiar haunts in his native Minnesota, where he started the public radio show "Prairie Home Companion."

Keillor, now host of the weekly "American Radio Company" show on National Public Radio, left New York last month to reside with his wife in a new log home amid the woods and fields of northwestern Wisconsin, across the St. Croix River from Minnesota.

"It's just outside the area where all my ghosts live," Keillor told the Milwaukee Sentinel in an interview conducted at Minnesota Public Radio headquarters in St. Paul.

It's just the right distance from "where I used to go with women whom I was trying to be in love with and places where I argued politics and where my softball team was defeated — all of those painful associations," he said.

Keillor gave up "Prairie Home Companion" soon after marrying Ulla Skaerved in 1985. Saying he was tired of churning out the

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weekly program, he moved to Denmark with his Danish-born bride.

But a year later, he returned to launch the New York-based "American Radio Company."

Before long, the new program picked up trappings of its predecessor, including Keillor's tales from the imaginary Minnesota town of Lake Wobegone, "where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking and all the children are above average."

Christopher Bannon, marketing director for the show, said it is distributed to 244 stations nationwide and has 1.3 million listeners.

Keillor said he feels no great pressure in preparing the weekly programs performed before a live audience at the World Theater in St. Paul.



Garrison Keillor

"Otherwise, I wouldn't be any good at it, because I don't behave well under a lot of pressure. I only behave well when things are going easy and when I'm enjoying them."

Cops seek robber of Tom's Pizza

Madison police are investigating the armed robbery overnight of a West Beltline business.

Police are seeking a masked man who was armed with a handgun when he robbed Super Tom's Pizza, 4253 W. Beltline.