

Science Reporters Conference over the weekend. University of Washington's School of Medicine. individual patient."

# Keillor shyly joins radio immortals



Associated Press

Garrison Keillor speaks during his induction Sunday into the Radio Hall of Fame in Chicago. The humorist was honored along with radio personality Gary Owens, comic Red Skelton, the "Burns and Allen Show" and innovator Gordon McLendon.

## Humorist in Hall of Fame

By Mpls.-St. Paul Star Tribune

CHICAGO — Garrison Keillor entered the Radio Hall of Fame on Sunday, joining such legends as Tommy Dorsey, Arthur Godfrey and Benny Goodman.

Completely in character, Keillor downplayed his achievement in a short soliloquy.

"Our reputations depend on the opinions of the misinformed, and if you put me into a radio hall of fame, you are truly misinformed. But I'm grateful for it," he said.

For two decades, Keillor hosted "A Prairie Home Companion." About 5,000 radio executives and broadcast historians vote to select each year's inductees. Among the broadcast pioneers and personalities in the Hall of Fame are: Guglielmo Marconi (inventor of the radio), Orson Welles, Edward R. Murrow, Dick Clark, Casey Kasem and Rush Limbaugh.

Also honored Sunday night were comedian Red Skelton, "The Burns and Allen Show" and Gary Owens, best-known as the announcer on NBC's "Laugh-In." Gordon McLendon, who developed several radio formats including Top 40 and all-news, was posthumously honored.

At a reception before Sunday night's broadcast, Keillor said his induction made him feel as if he was being "embalmed, entombed." The award made him think of "impending death."

The black-tie affair, the radio enthusiasts' equivalent of the Academy Awards, is held each November at Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communications, an appropriate setting to honor one of radio's greatest champions of old-fashioned live entertainment.

**"You get to play a cowboy, a detective and tell stories about pushing over privies on Halloween. It's the most fun an adult can have in public."**

— Garrison Keillor

"People will look back on contemporary radio 20 years from now and say, 'What a gem,'" said Michael Cervone, the museum's radio collections director. "A Prairie Home Companion" is so entirely different from everything else that's going on in radio now. He (Keillor) will develop a story for 15 minutes. You don't get that anywhere else."

ABC Radio's Paul Harvey added his praise.

"I grew up with Will Rogers as a neighbor, and I think Garrison Keillor is the closest thing we have to Rogers. He has a marvelous ability to discuss life's complexities in shirtsleeve English. He has brought Lake Wobegon to life for all of us."

Keillor recalled his first radio job: "I hoped to be distinguished, but I was scared ... with the kind of trembling (you feel) when you come into the presence of the gods who have granted your wish."

"I've worked so long at radio, and recently I've begun to enjoy it," Keillor said. "You get to play a cowboy, a detective and tell stories about pushing over privies on Halloween. It's the most fun an adult can have in public."

Scripps Howard News Service