

Keillor takes 'Prairie Home' to North Dakota

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Garrison Keillor occasionally makes reference to North Dakota on his radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," but until Saturday he had never broadcast the radio program from Minnesota's sister state.

The radio host brought his

national program to the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the University of North Dakota campus. He used the opportunity to give credit to Red River Valley residents for their resilience after the 1997 flood and downtown fire. "It's a tribute to just sheer human stubborn-

ness and human will that Grand Forks is the city that it is today," he said. "Grand Forks just simply refused to die."

While this was his first program broadcast from North Dakota, Keillor brought a non-radio version of the show to Fargo in 1974, according to the

show's Web site.

The program derives its name from another Red River Valley city — Moorhead, Minn. He has said he got the idea for the name from the Prairie Home Cemetery across from Concordia College.

— *Associated Press*