

Celebrities

Keillor draws fans to Minnesota

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Some 300 visitors from around the country will experience an above-average weekend, thanks to Garrison Keillor and Minnesota Public Radio.

On a Dec. 15 broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion," Keillor invited fans outside Minnesota to spend a Wobegon Weekend in St. Paul in February.

Participation was limited to 300 people — 100 from the East, West and South. Within hours of Keillor's announcement, all the spaces for the East were filled, and the rest of the country was sold out in less than two days. Package prices started at \$350 per person, plus airfare.

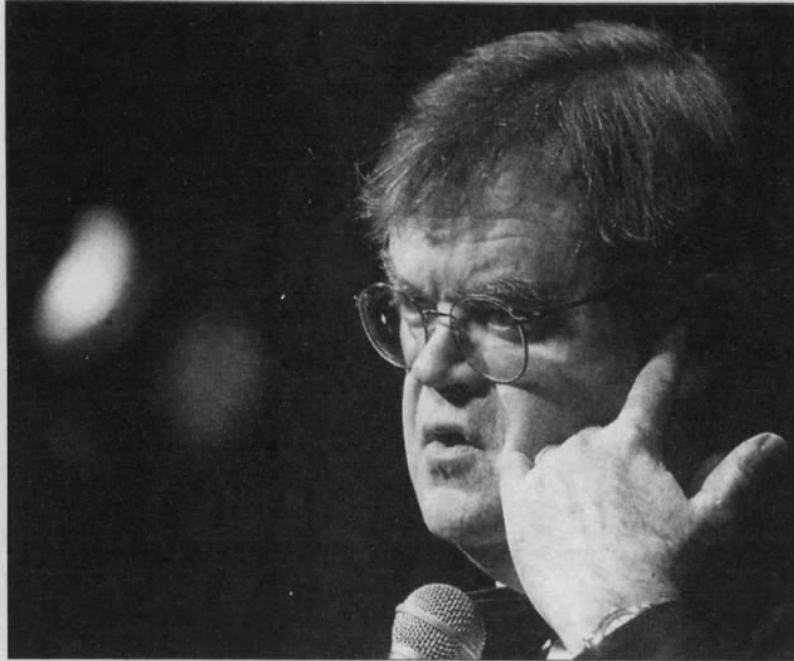
Keillor wanted to show the rest of the country that Minnesotans don't fear winter, but revel in it.

The Wobegon Weekend kicks off with a supper hosted by Keillor in a church basement on Friday, Feb. 8. The menu includes Minnesota's favorite food, hotdish.

On Saturday, Feb. 9, participants have their choice of local tours before attending a performance of "A Prairie Home Companion" at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, followed by a dessert reception.

An ice-fishing expedition on White Bear Lake rounds out the weekend on Sunday.

Keillor is creator of the mythical Minnesota town of Lake Wobegon, "Where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking and all the children are above average."



Garrison Keillor invited fans living outside of Minnesota to spend a Wobegon Weekend in St. Paul in February 2002. Participation was limited, and packages started at \$350 per person, plus airfare.

from a former "Seinfeld" star is charmed — unlike the short-lived series with Michael Richards and Jason Alexander.

"I think there's pressure, period, regardless of the past successes or failures of any of my friends," said Louis-Dreyfus, whose "Watching Ellie" premieres Feb. 26 on NBC. She plays lounge singer Eleanor Riggs.

Louis-Dreyfus, who said she took a few years to "chill out" and raise her two children, is joining

This week's celebrity birthdays

Today: Actor Robert Stack ("Unsolved Mysteries," "The Untouchables") is 83. Actor Charles Nelson Reilly is 71. Comedian Rip Taylor is 68. Actor Richard Moll ("Night Court") is 59. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("Seinfeld") is 41.

Monday: "60 Minutes" commentator Andy Rooney is 83.

Ronnie Milsap is 59. Director John Carpenter is 54. Actress-dancer Debbie Allen is 52. Singer Sade is 43.

Thursday: Actress Betty White is 80. Actress-singer Eartha Kitt is 75. Actor James Earl Jones is 71. Talk show host Maury Povich is 63. Former Rolling Stones guitarist Mick Taylor is 54. Singer Steve Earle is 47.

Friday: Actor-director Kevin Costner is 47. Actor James L.