

Prairie Home Companion turns 10

ST. PAUL, Minn. (UPI) — Garrison Keillor made the 10th anniversary broadcast of *Prairie Home Companion* a little ritzy by adding an orchestra and chorus, but he kept the homespun touch of Lake Wobegon that gained the show a radio audience of 3 million across the nation.

The extra class and style came from the Night O'Rest orchestra, chorus and dancers. They sounded a bit like Broadway and presented a "commercial," with beautiful violins and a soprano singing:

"If you need worms, and lodging, too,

"On easy terms, the place for you

"Is at the highway sign proclaiming:

"Art's Baits and Night of Rest."

Saturday evening's show marked the 10th anniversary of the show created by Keillor, now 42, who is shy, soft-spoken, 6-foot-4, and always wears a cream-colored suit and red tie on stage.

The show began a decade ago on KSJN-FM, St. Paul, before 12 people in a college auditorium. Today the show is aired to 235 public radio stations with an estimated 3 million listeners plus 1,600 in the Orpheum Theater.

For the 10th anniversary, several thousand fans joined Keillor and crew in a post-show celebration on the state capitol mall, consuming bratwurst and beer and dancing in the street to polkas and ballads.

"It's been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon," Keillor said, opening his weekly monologue about folks in his mythical home town. The 10th anniversary of the show didn't stir up much excitement in Lake Wobegon, he said.