

ON THE CABLE

Disney discovers town that time forgot

By Andrew J. Edelstein

Homespun storyteller Garrison Keillor brings his "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show to TV this week with a new series on The Disney Channel, debuting Saturday, March 7. Keillor is the show's creator, chief writer and host.

The show — a Saturday-night ritual for an estimated 2 million weekly radio listeners — will be a taped broadcast of the same program that aired earlier that evening on National Public Radio from the World Theater in St. Paul, Minn. "A Prairie Home Companion" is set in the mythical Minnesota hamlet of Lake

Wobegon, a town that "time forgot and that the decade cannot improve." A typical show features a variety of music, stories and commercials.

"We will be looking for some way to open the show up for TV," says a Disney Channel spokesperson. "But it won't change it dramatically from the show people love so much."

The success of "A Prairie Home Companion" and of the novel "Lake Wobegon Days," which was a No. 1 best seller last year, helped put Keillor on the cover of Time.

A two-hour "PHC" special aired

earlier this year on both PBS and The Disney Channel.

The whole world is watching — again: Today's yuppies, unfamiliar with the yuppie past of Jerry Rubin, may be in for a shock when they see the nabob of networking portrayed in "The Chicago Conspiracy Trial," a made-for-HBO production now being filmed. The drama re-creates the 1970 trial of the Chicago 7, a group that included Rubin and his yuppie cohort Abbie Hoffman. The group was charged with conspiracy related to the events surrounding the violence-plagued 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

The dialogue will be taken from the actual transcripts and the drama will also feature on-camera recollections from the actual defendants and attorneys.