Keillor escapes from New York with corny tour

Once upon a time, a man from Lake Wobegon, Minn., traded all of his quiet weeks for a bustling New York minute. He got a raw deal. Not only was he shortchanged on time, he traded neares of mind for more than the short of the second of the second s

he traded peace of mind for unrest, success for disappointment, happy songs like "Hello, Love" for the blues and, worst of all for a son of the Midwest, sweet corn for corned

son of the induced, and a good ear of sweet corn "I haven't had a good ear of sweet corn since I've been in New York City," moans Garrison Keillor. "Imagine, a city that prides itself on its cuisine, and it doesn't offer the best food there is." offer the best food there is

He says this, pauses and then releases a steamy sigh that could melt a pat of butter over an ear of tender sweet corn, the kind that squirts geysers of its milky juice into the air when you bite its kernels.

the air when you bite its kernels. Since sweet corn won't come to him, Keillor is going to it. This summer he's mounting his "Sweet Corn" tour with Chet Atkins, the Hopeful Gospel Quartet and Mavis & Marvin Smiley — a.k.a. Robin & Linda Williams. One of their stops along the sweet-corn belt includes Monday night's concert at Music Hall. "We're hoping to run into some sweet

"We're hoping to run into some sweet corn along the way," Keillor says. "Actually the tour is a brazen bid to get some vegetables."

Actually, the tour is a bid to escape the New York blues. Keillor's new radio show, American Radio Company of the Air, the replacement for his beloved and award-win-

Cliff Radel

ning A Prairie Home Companion, is not working. Keillor has found that doing a radio show in New York is not like doing one in St. Paul, Minn., the home of Prairie Home.

In New York, the people laugh quicker. And they laugh at anything. When Keillor would tell a joke in St. Paul's World Theatre, the crowd would take it in, warm up to it, chew on it, chuckle, snort, giggle, snicker, then — KAPOW! — laugh out loud and even annlaud even applaud. In New York, he has trouble delivering a

punch line at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. While he's still in his windup and before he's thrown his pitch, the crowd is catching his fastball and laughing ... and saying "I get it, OK, what's next?" But that's New York. Everybody in the audience wants to be the first one in their row to get

Wants to be an above trouble performing in "I seem to have trouble performing in New York," Keillor says. "It's hard to figure out. I just don't feel comfortable on stage." Use software to blame the audience.

He refuses to blame the audience. "Whatever goes wrong in my business, it ain't the fault of the people in the seats."

(Please see KEILLOR, Page D-8)



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Keillor

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Sunday, July 15, 1990

radio. He made his move in whet as licker Prairie Home and called his citified creation American Radio Company of the tir Kellor was back at light. Bu-merican Radio Company of the tir Radio audience wasn't.
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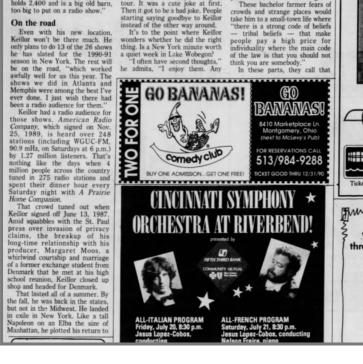
"puttin' on airs." Anybody who acts out of place, who acts up, who acts on stage for a radio show, can be accused of puttin' on airs. Garrison Keillor, native of Anoka, Minn, creator of Lak Wobegon, "the little town that time forgot and the decades cannot improve". Knows if he returns to the Midwest he would be "following those fears.

"following those fears. "That's why I have to trust something that is not fear and is what I call grace. That's why,

earned it. Garrison Keillor's "Sweet Corn Show" starring Chet Atkins, the Hopeful Gospel Quartet and Mavis & Marvin Smiley Plays Music Hall B p.m. Monday, Tickets and \$20 at Ticketron and the charge-by-phone number, 621-1110.

Janyer Brown HANK, WILLIAMS JR. And THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS Friday August 24 (8 PM) All Seats reserved \$18.50 - On Sale Now! **Riverfront Coliseum** on sale at the Coliseum drive-up window and all Ticketron outlets Charge by phone 621-1110 or 1-800-225-7337 mA With Grandma Moses gone... who's to stop these four brothers from throwing the wildest party of the summer?

Country Concert Event of 1990!



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