

## In the footsteps of Twain

**G**arrison Keillor, the radio humorist and writer, came to Hartford Wednesday to tour the Mark Twain House and to prepare a show he will do there this Saturday. He spoke of his interest in the house and his affection for Twain, and he spoke of plans for the Mark Twain edition of his show, "Garrison Keillor's American Radio Company."

Mr. Keillor and others will read from well-known Twain works such as "Roughing It," "Life on the Mississippi" and the "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," and they will try to be worthy of a home in which — as Mr. Keillor imagines it, anyway — Mark Twain knew happy days.

In fact, the Minnesotan advises the Mark Twain Foundation that it ought to do more with the old house than treat it as a literary shrine, deserved as that status is. It would be in keeping with the spirit of the original occupant, he says, to

occasionally "... invite a bunch of writers in to drink whiskey, smoke and shoot pool."

A second, greater homage to Twain would be for more Americans to actually read his work. It is good to listen to Mr. Keillor reading Twain. It is fine to compare the two men, and certainly Mr. Keillor may have as much claim to the mantle of Twain as any humorist today. It is even well to study the great man's life, which was more pathetic and tragic than comical. But the best thing of all is to read Mark Twain.

If Garrison Keillor's welcome visit to Hartford inspires listeners to read Samuel Langhorne Clemens, then the broadcaster is to be thanked and praised. As Mr. Keillor says of Twain: "He was undoubtedly, along with Ralph Waldo Emerson, the greatest writer of sentences that people remember." We need to remember the sentences as well as the man.