

## KEILLOR: Show broadcast from Flynn

Continued from Page 1A

In addition to Elliott, Keillor's special guests included the 17-member Essex Children's Choir, directed by Constance Price. The choir first sang after the somewhat scatological city dump sketch, which concluded with a stunt car smashing into the fruit cakes and the destruction of a glass house.

"This is what radio is really about — the destruction and senseless waste of property," Keillor told the choir. "That's why you're here — to raise the show up and help us justify the rest."

The choir, intent on Price and fighting butterflies, did just that, piping out three pristine songs to about 1½ million listeners. Not a bad night's work.

"The Lonesome Radio

Theatre" was another sketch about a harried New Yorker escaping to Vermont, this time to the Monastery of St. Vermont, a Unitarian monastery where "you observe complete silence, but if you think of something good to say you can go ahead and say it."

Keillor, clad in a gray suit, white shirt, and red socks (he shed his red tie earlier in the show), set up shop on a stage stool for 15 minutes midway through the second act and gave us the latest news from Lake Wobegon, the mythic Minnesota town that achieved near-mythic popularity during Keillor's 13 years with "A Prairie Home Companion," which ended in 1987.

In Saturday's narrative, Keillor told of Dorothy's baking a pile of rhubarb pies for her Chat-

terbox Cafe customers, likening the properties of rhubarb to Norwegian Lutherans. They share a surprising number of similarities.

Dorothy, though, gets no enjoyment from eating rhubarb pie. As Keillor's monologue spun on, the idea of creation vs. enjoyment became increasingly significant, and a little troublesome. Was this Keillor describing his own creative malaise?

Most of the audience would probably have said after the show that they hoped Keillor — wherever he chooses to settle his American Radio Company — continues to get as much enjoyment from creating the show as they receive from listening to it.

He's still got the magic, and he's still got our attention.