

## Keillor Broadcasts Live From Red Cloud, Neb.

RED CLOUD, Neb. (AP) — On the 118th anniversary of Willa Cather's birth, humorist Garrison Keillor's national radio program was broadcast live from the Nebraska author's home town.

Keillor opened his "American Radio Company" with a review of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author's life and described the geography near Red Cloud, located about 35 miles south of Hastings.

Keillor got in a few thinly disguised political comments during Saturday night's broadcast.

He talked about "the Republican River, a crooked river," as the audience in the Red Cloud High School gymnasium laughed. Of nearby Republican City, Keillor said:

"I don't know what you can say about that. Just hope for the best for those folks."

Reeling off a list of Nebraska town names, Keillor paused with Flats, in the west central part of the state.

"Flats. That's the whole name of the town. Flats, Nebraska," he said.

"If any of you came to the gymnasium tonight to see the basketball game between the Red Cloud Warriors and the Beaver City Wildcats, that game's been rescheduled," Keillor said.

"Go, Warriors!" he said to applause from the audience of about 1,000.

Cather was born Dec. 7, 1873. She arrived in Red Cloud with her family in 1883. Keillor said Cather, who won the Pulitzer for her novel "One of Ours," was not stifled by the small Nebraska town, which now has a population of about 1,300.

Of Cather's mother and the way she reared her children, Keillor said:

"She took care of their bodies and kept her hands off their souls."

Cather also wrote "My Antonia," "O Pioneers!" and "Song of the Lark."

Keillor told of how she slept in an upper room of the small white house owned by her parents.

"In the winter, the snow came through the roof boards," Keillor said.

Keillor's program included music and readings from Cather's works.

Keillor suggested the broadcast from Red Cloud after doing a program this spring from Mark Twain's house in Hartford, Conn., said Chris Tschida, producer of "American Radio Company," heard on public radio stations.

He said that he will do a third author birthday program on May 30, live from the Brooklyn, N.Y., home of poet Walt Whitman.