



**GARRISON
KEILLOR**
Regrets act
19 years ago

Garrison Keillor left impression on boy

Garrison Keillor has struck few fans the way he struck Ben Ellingson during a live radio show 19 years ago.

Keillor recalled how he celebrated the first year of "A Prairie Home Companion" by uncorking a bottle of champagne on stage. The cork shot over the heads of the audience and hit Ellingson, then 4, in the forehead as he sat with his parents in the back row.

Keillor brought Ellingson, now 23, on stage during the show's 20th anniversary broadcast Saturday at Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, Minn. Keillor said uncorking the champagne was "the dumbest thing anybody ever did on a stage."

"I listened to the tape recently, and you can hear this child's cry of pain," Keillor said. "And I say in a stricken voice, 'Oh, I'm so sorry. Are you all right?'"

After sharing a warm, low-key anniversary celebration with 1,000 people in the audience and listeners on 310 public radio stations, Ellingson said offstage there were no hard feelings.