

Keillor sets first release of vintage monologues

TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

Garrison Keillor has kicked off a new campaign to digitally release his Lake Wobegon monologues from the 1980s.

Keillor initially created the fictional Minnesota town for a novel. But after he lost the manuscript in a train station in Portland, Oregon, he started talking about Lake Wobegon on the radio as a way to recall the plotlines from the book.

The partially finished novel was never found, but Keillor ended up with four decades worth of stories about “the little town that time forgot and the decades could not improve.”

Keillor released Tuesday a set of 13 remastered monologues from January 1980 through August 1980 that include the very first mentions of “Tomato Butt” and the persistent stalk of grass growing in the ear of the statue of the Unknown Norwegian. Every two months, a new collection will be issued to online retailers as a digital album available for purchase via CD Baby, iTunes and Amazon Music.

Keillor, 77, hosted “A Prairie Home Companion” from 1974 to his supposed retirement in 2016. Mandolinist Chris Thile took over the show, but changed its name to “Live from Here” after Minnesota Public Radio cut all ties with Keillor in November 2017 citing “allegations of his inappropriate behavior with an individual who worked with him” and later adding that MPR received dozens of complaints about Keillor’s sexually inappropriate behavior.