Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/189864046/

Downloaded on Sep 2, 2026

September to be last month for Keillor's early FM show

By RICHARD GIBSON
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Garrison Keillor will discontinue his popular early morning program on local public FM radio the end of September.

"It's entirely my own choice," he said yesterday. "I'm running out of sleep."

Keillor hosts the show, called "The Prairie Home Companion," on KSJN-FM and other stations in the statewide Minnesota Educational Radio (MER) network from 6-9 a.m.

To prepare for it, he said, Keillor frequently arrives at the St. Paul studio at 3:30 or 4 a.m. "I've never really gotten used to the hours," he said.

Keillor has developed a loyal following, and is considered a mainstay of the station from a unique mix of low-key programing, which includes playing Bach and banjos back to back, promotions for speed-listening courses and a recorded episodic canoe trip down the Mississippi.

And since the MER stations are noncommercial, Keillor created his own sponsor, Jack's Auto Repair, an enterprise of conglomerate proportions on nonexistent Lake Wobegun.

In its stead Keillor hopes to produce live musical shows of up to three hours duration "from little auditoriums or theaters, or as live remotes from around the state." Presumably, the programs would be aired weekend evenings.

"That's my dream," Keillor said. "I think they're (the MER management) interested, but things are sort of in turmoil over here. We can hardly get a peaceful moment to discuss it." (Yesterday the departure of several major news department personnel became known).

Keillor indicated that live shows would be "a very expensive proposition" and he would not seek regular operating funds to pay for bands and other production items.

Keillor said he'd also hope to do occasional spots for Jack's on KSJN and its affiliates, KSJR-FM, Collegeville, and KCCM-FM, Fargo-Moorhead.

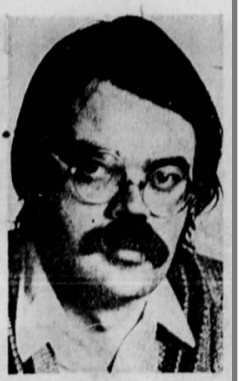
William Kling, president of MER, said that for several months Keillor has sought to terminate the morning program so he could devote more time to writing.

Keillor has written irregularly for The New Yorker magazine and now plans to compile a book of those short pieces and others.

"It will require more than just pasting," he said. "Radio's a hobby, but writing is my career and I haven't gotten much done."

Despite his fierce following, Keillor says he doubts his leaving will hurt the station much financially. MER depends on public pledges and underwriting by firms and foundations.

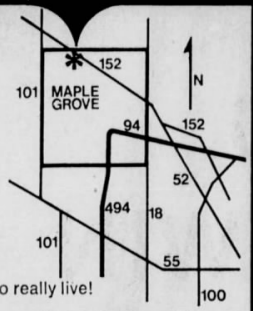
"The real selling point (of MER) is the fact that they're a classical music service," Keillor said. "I think that people who were just tuning into my program and weren't regular listeners to the rest of the station were not a prime target for fund raising. But I really don't know."



GARRISON KEILLOR
'Companion' is leaving

Your Homestead: 5 Acres in MAPLE GROVE

There's a homestead waiting for you, on five beautiful wooded acres in Maple Grove. Build your own private country estate, away from crowds, noise, pollution. Room for your family and all their activities, room for pets, room to really live!



Every Castlewood homesite . . . six, five or four acres — is next to riding and walking trails. Parks, ponds, schools, shopping, golf and ski areas are minutes away. Be secure in the knowledge that your property will grow in value, protected by enlightened building and environmental policies. We'll provide whatever assistance you need in planning and building your estate.

Invest in Castlewood Estates
where your money buys more than a lot.

POTTED POT A WINNER AT KANSAS FAIR

ABILENE, Kan. (UPI)—A floral display with marijuana stems as greenery won a blue ribbon at the Central Kansas Free Fair this week

"I thought it looked pretty nice because of the long, fern-like leaves," said Mrs. Faye Harper of Junction City, who submitted the display.

Marijuana grows wild in her backyard.

"I've tried killing it out, but the more I chopped it down, the more it came up," she said.

Police Chief Fred Garten permitted the arrangement to remain on display for three days, then he took it to his office.

"I removed it because it was beginning to wilt, and since the award had already been issued, I could see no reason for leaving it for someone to take the marijuana," he said.

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.