

Busy author of Lake Wobegon Days has own 'woeful' day

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It was a woeful day for Garrison Keillor, Minnesota author of the best-selling book, "Lake Wobegon Days."

While several hundred Keillor fans waited Wednesday at Dayton's book department in downtown Minneapolis for an autograph, their hero was struggling.

Keillor, star of Minnesota Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," was supposed to pull up to Dayton's Seventh Street entrance to be greeted by one store official who was to park his car and another who was to escort him to the fifth floor.

"They were there, but he didn't see them," said Cyndi Schlosser, manager of public relations for the department store. So Keillor tried to find a parking place.

He couldn't get into a parking lot or ramp, so he found an outside pay phone and called Dayton's officials to say he was on his way, Ms. Schlosser said.

Dayton's told Keillor to pull up to the Eighth Street door and they'd try again.

"But when he got back to his car, he had locked his keys in his car," Schlosser said. "So he got a coat hanger at a nearby store and broke into his car."

Fame being what it is, Keillor was running late for other commitments by that time and couldn't make the Dayton's appearance.

"It's a very busy time in his life," Schlosser said. "He felt very bad and we felt very bad."

Keillor was supposed to appear at Dayton's at noon.