

'Prairie Home' restored

Writer Garrison Keillor brings radio show full circle

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Author and humorist Garrison Keillor says his weekly public radio program, now called "The American Radio Company," this fall will again be known as "A Prairie Home Companion."

"It's a name with a lot of tradition," Keillor said. He presided over the weekly variety show under its original name from 1974 to 1987 when the program originated from the New World Theater in St. Paul, Minn.

After leaving Minnesota to live briefly in Denmark and then New York City, Keillor revived the weekly program under the name "The American Radio Company."

"We'll be forced to become more honest and good-hearted than we really are" by returning to the show's original name, Keillor said over the weekend. "Prairie Home Companion" represents the Great Plains, the heartland; and people on the coasts expect us to uphold everything that's decent and good in

America. They look to us to represent virtue."

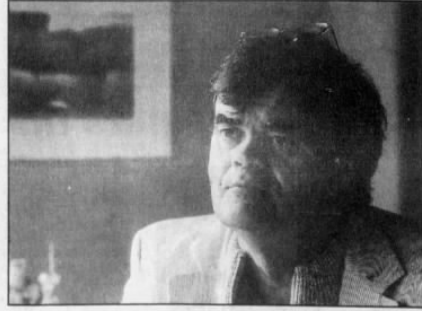
Keillor spent a couple of days over the July Fourth holiday weekend at Livingston's historic Murray Hotel, tapping at his portable computer in the lobby in the mornings and in the evening wandering across the street to the Owl Lounge, where he rubbed elbows with the local literati who frequent the place.

Although he has put on 17 years of radio and television shows, Keillor said he considers himself more writer than performer.

"Performing always depends on writing anyway. There are very, very few performers who are able to rise above their material. Everyone depends on the material."

More of Keillor's material will be coming in November, he said. He just finished another book, titled "The Book of Guys."

"It's a book of stories about 21 guys, including myself. Me and George Bush and Dionysius and Zeus."



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"IT'S A NAME with a lot of tradition," Garrison Keillor said of the decision to call his radio show by its original name, "A Prairie Home Companion." Keillor was visiting in Livingston over the holiday weekend.