

# Garrison Keillor brings trademark humor to Bend

The Associated Press

BEND — Garrison Keillor, host of public radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," took his show on the road to Bend this weekend, and got in some gentle pokes at Oregon's fastest growing city.

Keillor described the Bendites arrayed before him at the Les Schwab Amphitheater as "handsome, skinny people" and said the city "was once a lumbering town — by that I mean the timber industry, not the way the people walked."

In a skit featuring Guy Noir, an old-fashioned private eye who is one of the program's signature characters, Keillor told the story of a Minnesota farmer who fled to Bend in order "to play golf."

The farmer wasn't hard for Noir to find, however — he was wearing "barn boots" on

the course, Keillor said.

Keillor also poked fun at a Bend ordinance that requires dog owners to pick up their pet's excrement, saying the rule seemed to fly in the face of everything the Old West represented.

"John Wayne did not go after his pooch with a baggie in hand!" Keillor exclaimed.

Oregon musicians who played to a sold-out crowd Saturday were The Booher Family, a country and gospel group from Tumale, Blue Pass, a bluegrass quartet from La Grande, and the Portland folk duo Kate Power and Steven Einhorn.

Keillor, 60, began "A Prairie Home Companion" in 1974 in St. Paul, Minn. He performs with three other cast members every week. The Minneapolis-based Public Radio International distributes the broadcast nationally.