



Courier photo by Mike Weber

Lake Wobegon to come alive at UNI

CEDAR FALLS—The Friends of KUNI/KHKE want to take you to Lake Wobegon.

The mythical community of Lake Wobegon, Minn., is the alleged home of Garrison Keillor, host and resident sage of "A Prairie Home Companion," a variety show of acoustic music and humor which will be featured in concert in the UNI Auditorium Friday at 8 p.m.

The concert is being presented by the Friends of KUNI/KHKE, with support from the Affiliated State Arts Agencies of the Upper Midwest, including the Iowa Arts Council.

Founded in 1973, the Friends of KUNI/KHKE is the oldest public radio support organization in the country. The non-profit group provides financial support and volunteer work to help maintain the non-commercial broadcasting activities of the two Cedar Falls public radio stations.

CURRENTLY, MONEY raised from the dues of the more than 2,000 members across eastern Iowa supports the salaries of three full-time staff producers heard on KUNI and KHKE.

Lake Wobegon, and A Prairie Home Companion both originated in the mind of Keillor, a writer and a producer for Minnesota Public Radio. Keillor developed "A Prairie Home Companion"

into a weekly live radio variety show heard via satellite on 80 stations in the National Public Radio network. KUNI broadcasts the program live each Saturday at 5 p.m.

On the programs, Lake Wobegon is featured as Keillor presents tales about life "in the little town that time forgot, that decades can't improve;" its people, "all the men are handsome, all the women strong, and the children above average;" and its industries, Powdermilk Biscuits, "Look for the paper sacks with the brown stains that indicate freshness. Heavens they're tasty!" and Jack's Auto Repair, "all tracks lead to Jack's."

Joining Keillor on the UNI Auditorium stage will be a variety of musicians, including ragtime pianist Butch Thompson, "the Queen of the Autoharp" Stevie Beck, singers/songwriters Pop Wagner and Greg Brown, and the Cedar Falls folksinging duo of Scott Cawelti and Bob Waller.

Tickets are \$3.50, and will be available at the door. Advance tickets are for sale at KUNI, the Maucker Union Box Office, The Britchery, Cotton-Top Natural Foods, and University Book and Supply in Cedar Falls, and at Co-op Tapes and Records, Larry's Clothes, and The Music Corner, in Waterloo. All seats are general admission.

Mimi Kingsbury of Cedar Falls, president, and Henry Cutler, vice president of the Friends of KUNI/KHKE, prepare themselves for an excursion to the mythical Lake Wobegon, the setting for "A Prairie Home Companion." The musical variety show is Friday at 8 p.m. in the UNI Auditorium.