

Dayton whistler graces Lake Wobegon airwaves

A Dayton woman will whistle her way to international fame on **Garrison Keillor's** "A Prairie Home Companion" radio program Saturday.

Patty Ediger, who lives on a farm near Dayton, is the only individual act among the six finalists for the third annual "Talent From Towns Under 2,000" competition.

Ediger and the others will appear before a live audience of 3,600 in Muncie, Ind., for the broadcast. It is heard locally from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday on KOAC 550 AM and 91.5 FM. The show will be repeated at noon Sunday.

She has been whistling since she was a girl of 3 and started competing at the World's International Whistling Contest in Carson City, Nev., 20 years ago. In 1983, she won three first places. She also has won trophies for

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classical, contemporary, and dual whistling.

It won't be her first national broadcast. She once appeared on "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson."

Among the other small-town acts are a band comprised of a trio of brothers from Utah, an accordion family group from North Dakota, a country band from Indiana, a western group from Alabama, and a Vermont girls' chorus.

The winner will be determined by a vote of the audience and will receive the Silver Watertower Trophy from Keillor.

"It'll be fun to meet these performers and hear them play, sing, whistle, tell jokes, tap dance, whatever they do," Keillor said.

"I hope their families come and bring their flash cameras."

Keillor's public radio program originates from the fictional "Lake Wobegon" in Minnesota and is carried on more than 380 stations with an audience of more than 2 million. It also is broadcast on the Armed Forces Network Europe and on American One network via the Astra satellite.

Regis auction gets room

It is nice to have a room of your own, especially when you are an 18-year-old.

The folks who run the Regis High School's annual Green and Gold Auction now have a storage

room at the school after sharing space with the development office through its 18-year existence.

"With the increase of gifts during the past several years, the auction outgrew its shared quarters," said **Gay Stuntzner**, development director of the high school in Stayton.

Past auction chairwomen **Mary Lee Doerfler** and **Nancy Lulay** helped direct the conversion of a school storage room into an auction area. The room was remodeled with a window, lighting, wall paneling, shelving, a cabinet, and carpeting.

"The new auction room will be put to use immediately," said **Jeff and Kim Koehnke**, 1997 auction chairmen.

Hank Arends is the community events writer for the Statesman Journal.