

## Keillor's radio show to air final episode, ending 13-year run

Garrison Keillor is abandoning Lake Wobegon, "the tiny town that time forgot and the decades cannot improve," leaving about 4 million people homeless after Saturday night.

"A Prairie Home Companion" ends at the peak of its popularity. For a confessed shy person, who in recent years has been on the cover of Time and at the top of the best-seller list, it had become far too popular.

"In order for you to gather this material and to have some sense of the life of this imaginary town,

you have to be an ordinary person," Keillor told reporters in March, a month after he surprised his audience and the American Public Radio network by announcing his retirement.

"You have to have some semblance of anonymity, and I don't have that anymore in St. Paul," Keillor said. "And so I really can't do the show here except as a caricature of itself. And I really don't think I could do it elsewhere, so I choose to step out."

"A Prairie Home Companion" ends with two performances — a

\$150 a ticket benefit for the World Theater in St. Paul tonight and the regular show Saturday night — finishing a 13-year run on radio and 13 weeks on cable television's Disney Channel.

There will be reruns of "A Prairie Home Companion," but no more new tales from the Chatterbox Cafe, the Sidetrack Tap or the rectory of Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility; no more secrets from the marriage of the Krebsbachs or the aging, love-struck Sen. K. Thorvaldson.

There will be no new about Lutherans or Catholics, Norwegians, and none of thinks it's a cause for relief.

Liv Lyons, fraternal for the Minneapolis-based of Norway, said, "We sit him very, very much, but for us as well as for everyone else."

"I suppose everybody's town is a little like Lake Wobegon, that's why we like it so much."

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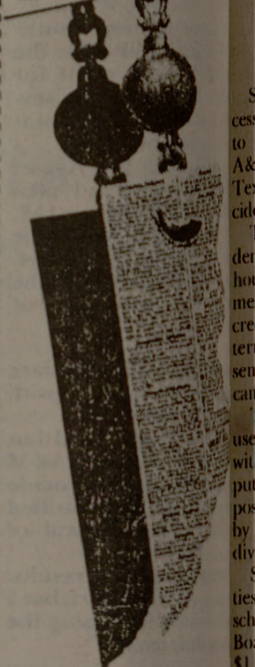
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