

Journey becomes miraculous

In 1893, a penniless man by the name of Francis Schlatter, a former cobbler born in France, started walking barefoot from Denver across Kansas in the direction of Little Rock.

During his stint in Colorado, he claimed that he heard the voice of a heavenly being he called "the Father."

This voice, he said in his memoir, "The Life of the Harp in the Hand of the Harper" (Smith-Brooks Printing Co., 1897), became his guide.

When "the Father" spoke to Schlatter, the voice told him to begin a journey.

He asked the Father, "How will I live? I have only \$3.75. How can I undertake such a trip without money?"

He said the voice told him, "I will take care of you."

Schlatter dropped everything and began his life-changing journey, but it is documented what he did for mankind.

Along this journey, Schlatter was jailed and horsewhipped. He suffered from hunger, fevers and blisters.

After he was jailed in Arkansas, "the Father" told Schlatter to walk west.

In 1895, he finally rested his feet in the town of Pajarito, N.M., just south of Albuquerque. In this tiny village on the banks of the Rio Grande, his legend took shape.

Working among the villagers, Schlatter placed his hands on a frail helpless man by the name of Jesus Maria Vasquez, who had been blind for three years.

After Schlatter touched the man's head, Vasquez was able to see.

France Szasz wrote in 1979 in an article for the *New Mexico Historical Review* that Schlatter also cured Juliana Sedillo, 16, who could not use her arms. The girl was working soon after this miracle.

Word spread, and two weeks later, groups of the sick and the curious asked Schlatter for his help.

Because of his new-found heal-

Elementary students receive many awards

Awards for the 2007-2008 school year at Oberlin Elementary School were presented at an assembly Friday in the grade school gymnasium.

Here is the list provided by the school:

All A's for Entire School Year
Kelly Brown, Kade Grafel, Alexandria Waterman, Regent Erickson, Kaine Fredrickson, Molly and Morgan Jansonius, Sierra Lohofener, Hannah May.

Perfect Attendance
Bree Chambers, Taylor Corbett, Zach Corbett, Rowdy Farr, Konner Fortin, Zander Kempt, Cade Wurm, Cory Wurm.

President's Outstanding Academic Excellence
Caleb Koerperich, Sierra Lohofener, Hannah May.

Fifth Grade Band Participation
Flute: Shawn Baker, Elizabeth Hollars, Demi Murray, Dallas Paul, Grace Randel.

Oboe: Rex Diederich.
Clarinet: Morgan Jansonius, Austin Kyte, McKenna O'Hare, Rebecca Wentz, Whitney Witt.

Saxophone: Kariah Castle, Regent Erickson, Molly Jansonius, Dakota Tate.

Trumpet: Gabe Anderson, Kelden Breth, Fernando Sanchez, Garrett Scott, Kramer Wrinkles.

Trombone: Jordan Baker, Wesley Geihlsler, Troy Juenemann.

Baritone: Aaron Cressler, Andrew Heller.

Percussion: Kaine Fredrickson, Ganon Henningson, Caitlin Shields.

Sixth Grade Band Participation
Flute: Katlyn Klima, Sierra Lohofener, Hannah May, Lara Zodrow.

Clarinet: Nick Ashley, Haley Schiessler.

Alto Saxophone: Caleb Koerperich.

Trumpet: Mercedese Gelhsler, Grant Gilliam, Baron Green, Daniel Skibbe, Joslyn Wade.

French Horn: Alexis Hissong.

Trombone: Chris Anderson, Justin Gee.

Baritone: Brittany Urban.

Tuba: Ben Glading.

Percussion: Kyle Breth, Jude Walinder.

2008 KU Reading Awards
First Year Gold: Mason Ahlberg, Jakobi Blau, Taylor Corbett, Tabor Erickson, Sierra Hendrickson, Quinton Cook, Luke Koerperich, third grade.

Gold: Keagen Blau, Kelly Brown, Kaitlyn Fisher, Emily Larson, fourth grade; Kariah Castle, Regent Erickson, Austin Hendrickson, Troy Juenemann, Demi Murray, Dallas Paul, Caitlin Shields, Rebecca Wentz, Molly Jansonius, Shawn Baker, Timothy Helm, Gannon Henningson, Morgan Jansonius, Whitney Witt, fifth grade; Hannah May, Baron Green, sixth grade.

Life Science: Jakobi Blau, Taylor Corbett, Tabor Erickson, Si-



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

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ing powers, the Hispanic community named him *El Sanador* (The Healer).

After working miracles in New Mexico, Schlatter traveled back to Denver.

By this time, he had been named the "healing humbug" by the *Albuquerque Daily Citizen* and called "the big, strong blasphemer."

The *Albuquerque Morning Democrat* described him as either "a maniac or shrewd sharper." It also documented that he had healed people and that his physical appearance resembled Jesus Christ.

By August of that year, he had become America's most famous faith healer.

It is reported that tens of thousands sought his healing powers and many skeptics were converted after watching his miracle hand.

That fall, *Schlattermania* became an epidemic as trainloads of would-be patients and reporters from across the country scurried into Denver to witness this Christ-like figure.

The *New York Times* wrote in 1895 "He is not healing for money."

The *Times* reported that he treated 200,000 people over the course of two months. Then at the height of his fame, he vanished, leaving a note pinned to his pillow.

He mounted his white horse and headed south, where he holed up at the remote ranch of Ada Morley in Datil, N.M.

He was told that it was too dangerous to travel in the winter or by oneself. He crossed the Rockies without a map, covering 600 miles to the ranch where Ms. Morley recorded the story of his pilgrimage

and his thoughts.

After three months, El Sanador left Morley's ranch, telling her "You will have what will seem to be certain evidence of my death, the world will laugh at you for rejecting — but reject it! I shall not be dead ... the Father has told me that Datil is the New Jerusalem."

Without explanation, a white-washed cross appeared on her barn shortly after his departure.

The next year, in the foothills of the Sierra Madre in Chihuahua, Mexico, a boy found a man's body next to a white horse that bore a leather sheath holding a copper staff. In the saddlebag was a Bible inscribed with Schlatter's name.

In 1906, Edgar Lee Hewett, the director of the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico, heard of his strange death and visited the area. Hewett made a donation to the village's education fund and, a few months later, received a package with the "copper rod" of the great healer. It is in the archives of the Museum of New Mexico today.

While thousands hoped Schlatter signified the second coming of Jesus, it is believed that he is buried in an unmarked Mexican grave.

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