

CHEROKEE COUNTY FAIR

JULY 15-JULY 19, 2025

Escape artist Harry Houdini lived in Cherokee County

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Houdini's—would bounce around towns mostly in southeastern Kansas. Focusing on cities that were flush with new money, smaller in size and located along the railroad, 16 stops

southern U.S. Each stop typically lasted 3 to 6 days. Once unloaded at the local train station, the company immediately hit the busiest street corner in town and started selling! Dr Hill and Dr. Pratt op-

was Houdini's job to work a tambourine and his wife to sing.

On January 9, 1898 in Galena, the Houdinis were prepared to give the townsfolk a performance that would be talked about for by people and newspapers for generations. Playbills were printed proclaiming Houdini the Great will give Sunday night a Spiritual Séance in the open light.

The séance was so good that multiple families were convinced the Houdinis had a direct connection with a loved one on the other side.

In addition to the seances, Houdini did hone a craft that would make him famous worldwide—escapes.

There are numerous reports of local sheriff's bringing handcuffs to an evening show, only to have Houdini escape out of them in seconds. These escapes and experiences would be the foundation of Houdini's world-wide fame and the nickname given to him in Columbus—King of the Handcuffs!

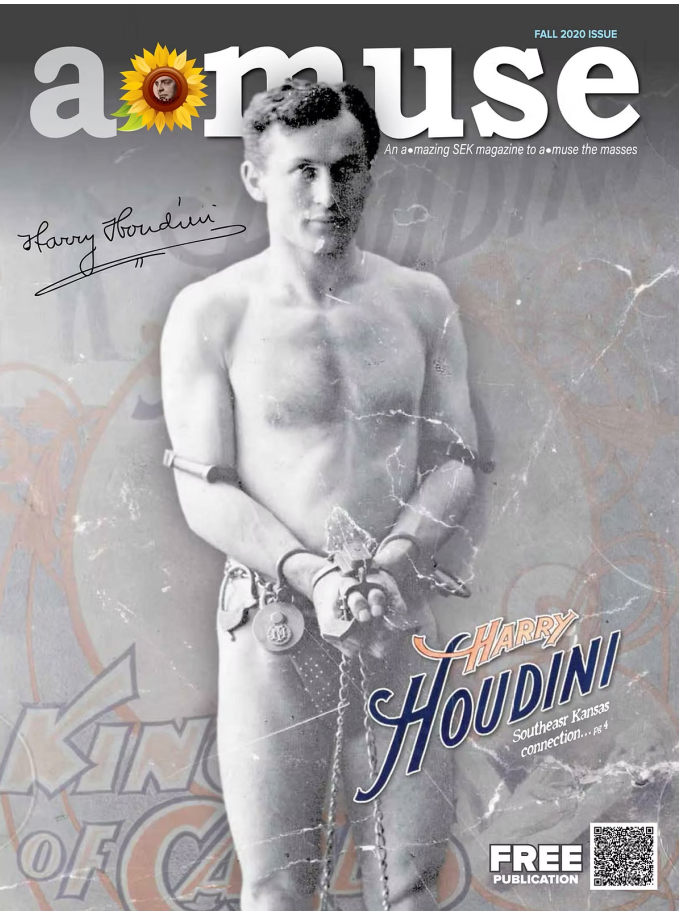
Many performers made up the shows toil-

ing away at the bottom rung of the show business ladder. Another husband-and-wife team that joined the medicine show in Kansas around January 1898 as Joe and Myra Keaton. The couple was a comedy act doing their best to get a break and move up the entertainment food chain.

The Keatons' had a son who was born in Piqua in 1895. As legend has it, while the tow couples were staying in a hotel or boarding house, the Keatons' young son was playing at the top of the staircase. He

was not aware of his surroundings and proceeded to fall down the entire flight of stairs, landing at Houdini's feet at the bottom. After realizing the boy was fine, it is said, Houdini exclaimed "that was a real buster!" The boy would go on to be a world wide silent movie star Buster Keaton.

The California Concert company would go finally go bust in Independence in February of 1898. The Houdinis would leave Kansas and join a circus in Missouri.



Magazine cover featuring Harry Houdini.

made up their schedule. The company never ventured south in the Indian Territory due to a Yellow Fever quarantine in the

erated the medicine show, hawking the product called Mokeena.

Dr. Hill played a small organ inside a carriage. It

At right and below a number of rides will be running on the midway during the Cherokee County Fair. There will be rides for all ages and excitement levels. For those who enjoy lots of rides, armbands are available and are good for one night of the fair.



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Legal Notice

(First Published in the Columbus News Report Friday, July 11, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Guardianship and Conservatorship of: Harold Stidham

Case No. CK-2024-PR-000080

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition for Sale of Real Estate at Private Sale and Report for Confirmation of Sale of Real Estate at Private Sale has been filed in this Court by Les Stidham, Guardian and Conservator, requesting that the following Kansas real estate owned by the ward and conservatee, situated in Cherokee County, Kansas, commonly described as 3002 S Main St, Galena, KS 66739:

Beginning at the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township Thirty-four (34) South, Range Twenty-five (25) East of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Cherokee County, Kansas, according to the United States Government Survey thereof, thence South Eighty-seven (87) degrees Twenty-two (22) minutes Forty-nine (49) seconds West along the South line of said Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) a distance of One hundred fifty (150.0) feet, thence North five (05) degrees Thirty-eight (38) minutes Fifty-seven (57) seconds West One hundred forty (140.0) feet, thence South Eighty-seven (87) degrees Forty-seven (47) minutes Twenty-seven (27) seconds East Two hundred eleven sixty-five hundredths (211.65) feet to the West right-of-way of Kansas State Highway 26, thence South Four (04) degrees Five (05) minutes Forty-four (44) seconds West along said right-of-way One hundred twenty-two and eighty-three hundredths (122.83) feet to the South line of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of said Section 26, thence South Eighty-seven (87) degrees Twenty-two (22) minutes Forty-nine (49) seconds West along said line Thirty-nine and fifteen hundredths (39.15) feet to the point of beginning.

Together with a fifteen (15.0) foot easement for ingress-egress being Seven and five tenths (7.5) feet on either side of the following described center line:

Commencing at the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Twenty-Six (26), Township Thirty-four (34) South, Range Twenty-five (25) East of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Cherokee County, Kansas, according to the United States Government Survey thereof, thence South Eighty-Seven (87) degrees Twenty-two (22) minutes Forty-nine (49) seconds West along the South line of said Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) a distance of One hundred fifty (150.0) feet, thence North Five (05) degrees Thirty-eight (38) minutes Fifty-seven (57) seconds West One Hundred forty (140.0) feet, thence South Eight-seven (87) degrees Forty-seven (47) minutes Twenty-seven (27) seconds East Forty (40.0) feet to the true point of beginning, thence South Eighty-seven (87) degrees Forty-seven (47) minutes Twenty-seven (27) seconds East One hundred seventy-one and sixty-five (171.65) feet to the West right-of-way of Kansas State Highway 26 and the point of ending.

be sold at private sale in accordance with the Petition for Sale of Real Estate at Private Sale and Report for Confirmation of Sale of Real Estate at Private Sale.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before August 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the District Court, in the city of Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defense, judgement and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

/s/ Angela M. Meyer

Angela M. Meyer, #24414

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Email: angela@angelameyerlaw.com

Attorney for Guardian and Conservator

July 11, 2025 July 18, 2025 July 25, 2025