

HY GARDNER FEATURETTE:



A VOICE FROM THE DEAD? Dunninger (see story) and Blackstone the Magician (left)

listen for word from spirit world at a seance such as mediums will hold on Halloween Eve.

HOUDINI

\$10,000 REWARD

... for anyone who can talk with this lonely ghost



HOUDINI IN CHAINS: This is how Houdini was chained in old movie, "Terror Island." He quickly set himself free.

NEXT THURSDAY night, Halloween Eve, at the bewitching hour of midnight, dozens of mediums from Coast to Coast will try to establish spiritual contact with the late Houdini.

Ever since the death on Halloween Eve, 1926, of the great escape artist, there's been a standing offer of at least \$10,000 to be paid to anyone who delivers a message from Houdini.

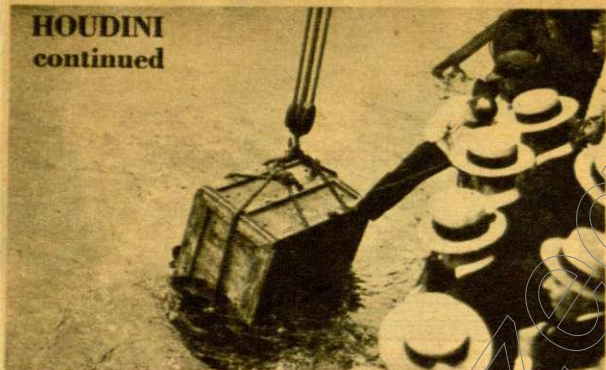
At this writing, some 800 mediums have applied to Houdini's friend and contemporary, Dunninger, for the prize, but in each instance Dunninger has explained away—or duplicated by natural or scientific means—what they claimed was contact by supernatural means.

● Now Paramount Pictures is preparing a film on Houdini's life, in which Dunninger will be technical advisor and probably play himself. As Paramount no doubt will show, these annual seances actually trace back to a meeting in Atlantic City, N.J., four or five years before Houdini's death. Houdini and Dunninger had been invited by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Lady Doyle to attend a seance.

At this session Lady Doyle went into a trance, placed a pencil on some paper and gave Houdini an 8-page message from his departed mother. "This is extraordinary, Lady Doyle," he admitted, "but one thing puzzles me. This message is in

Continued on next page ▶

HOUDINI
continued



HOUDINI IN BOX was dunked in filthy depths of New York Harbor. Again, he freed himself, amazing the spectators.

Mediums will listen again for voice of Houdini the Great

English, and while my mother spoke six languages, English was not one of them!"

Lady Doyle was so insulted she packed and left town immediately. Sir Arthur, protecting his wife, suggested that there might have been some form of intellectual development in the spirit plane to enable the mother to learn English.

"After this," Dunninger says, "Sir Arthur, Houdini and I made a 3-way pact: whoever passed away first would try to contact the others.

● "Now, as sole survivor, I'm left with a 10-word message given me before his death by Houdini. It's in code and I am the only one who knows what it would mean if decoded. *This is the message the mediums will try to get from Houdini himself on Halloween Eve.*"

Dunninger tells a dramatic story about Houdini's death. Houdini, who had a premonition of his own death, had gone to Detroit.



A Horrible Feeling

A WEEK OR TWO later, Dunninger, enjoying a bite with Keith Theater manager A. Frank Jones in Washington, felt faint. "I have a horrible feeling," he told Jones, "that Houdini has just passed!" Back at the theater, reporters told them Houdini had just died of peritonitis, the result of a blow struck by a man anxious to win a cash award offered "anyone who could hit Houdini hard enough to hurt him!"

● Dunninger expects to coach Tony Curtis, who'll play Houdini in the picture. But he'll leave the dangerous stunts to doubles. "After all," he says, "the public won't expect this youngster to dive off bridges, handcuffed like Houdini, or be lowered in an iron box into a river!"



HOUDINI & DOUBLE: Actor Tony Curtis (left) bears a startling resemblance to Houdini when he was young (right).