



—Dallas News Staff Photo by Joe Laird.

Director Sheldon, right, advises players Berry, Johnson and Brown.

# 'Route 66' Detours to Main Street

By GRIFF SINGER

Dallas County had a different sheriff Saturday.

He was James Brown, replacing Bill Decker in an unofficial capacity as Sheriff Strode. The lanky Central Texas native was playing before the vagabond cameras of the Route 66 television show, here for a locally set saga.

"Quiet! Roll 'em. Voice, Action!"

It was Hollywood all the way in the small glass-enclosed cubicle Decker calls home any other day except this particular Saturday.

Brown—better known to the young set as Lt. Rip Masters of the Rin Tin Tin show—played opposite Marty Milner, freckle-faced costar of the "road" show with George Maharis.

Maharis was missing from the scene Saturday. He was already the captive—on film—of a homicidal maniac who was demanding a ransom that all the people of Big D obey the Ten Commandments for 24 hours.

The sheriff's office scenes play a strategic part of the show, which should go before the public in from four to six weeks, said Sam Manners of Hollywood, executive in charge of productions for Herbert B. Leonard Productions, Inc.

From the 60-page script, 11 pages were being unreeled during more than eight hours of shooting. More than 30 producers, directors and technicians crowded among light standards and camera moved into the sheriff's office.

And there were some local folk on hand to add their acting

abilities: Ray Hyke and Dale Berry, who play criminal investigators, and Linda Johnson, an Arlington lovely making her camera debut as receptionist at the Trade Mart.

The "roll 'em" command sounded often during the day. If a scene wasn't right, director Jim Sheldon had it run again—sometimes four or five times.

When the good shot came through, then it was back into the interrogation room for rehearsal of script while the technicians readied for another camera angle.

Dallas' real-life criminal cooperated—things were quiet around the sheriff's office. It was so quiet, several deputies got into bit parts—hauling in a handcuffed "prisoner" or working at a desk. Their talent fee—\$8.

The "66" crew will wind up shooting Wednesday, after making shots from the Southland Center, Trade Mart, the Marriott Hotel, a shopping center, drive-in theater and Dallas Love Field. The troupe will return in February for another shooting.

Decker appeared pleased at the goings on although the office routine was torn asunder. He and chief deputy Alan Sweatt were on hand to lend technical advice to make the film have that authentic appearance.

The high sheriff's only moment of alarm came at midday.

"I don't mind them using my office. But where are they going with my furniture?" he asked as some burly stage hands started out a side door with his sofa.



Brown, right, gives Milner the word.