



THEATER-OF-THE-AIR:

## 'Route 66' Leads To a Cemetery

By FAIREAX NISBET

Tuesday we had lunch with Tuesday on the side of a road, right by a cemetery, just outside of Lewisville, Texas.

Yes, that's right, but before somebody suggests that a man in a white coat be sent for, let us explain that we were visiting the "Route 66" company which was shooting there, with Tuesday Weld as one of the guest stars.

Also on hand were the series' regular stars, George Maharis and Marlin Milner; Cloris Leachman, who also guest stars in this segment; James Sheldon, the director, and the great crew which travels with the 66'ers.

Between bites of hearty beef stew and carrot and pineapple salad (all low calorie, Doctor) we chatted with the members of the troupe.

Marty Milner had just flown in from California where he had rushed to be with his wife when their third child arrived prematurely. The new arrival, a son who has been named Stuart, joins two older sisters.

Milner said he hated to hurry back to work here, but then again, he was escaping some of the hardships of the family moving into a new home.

THE HANDSOME bachelor, Maharis, who started out as a singer, has a new single recording coming out this Friday. On the Epic label, he sings "Teach Me Tonight" with "When the Lights Go Down" on the flip side.

George, who also has a new Epic album coming out next month, "George Maharis Sings", told us that these discs were 10 years in the making. Before he started acting and hit big in "66," he sang, but on bad advice and poor musical coaching he almost ruined his voice. He had to remain absolutely silent for three weeks, once, and also took vocal therapy. He still does exercises to keep the vocal cords in shape.

Miss Weld, with long blonde hair flying in the Texas breeze, told us that she gets restless and bored when she isn't working. Once she put on a dark wig, applied for, and got a job in a small restaurant in Los Angeles. She says she worked there two months or so and nobody, including the owners, ever recognized her.

She says she would like to travel, also get into other lines of work, but at 18 she feels she has lots of time.

Miss Leachman, who is the wife of producer-director George Englund, is just back from Thailand where her husband is now shooting "The Ugly American" with Marlon Brando.

She has orders to get something "real Texas" for her three small sons, Adam, 8; Bryan, 6 and Georgie, 4.

One of the fine young actresses who appear frequently on our TV screens, she recently guest-starred in "The Man in the Middle," an "Untouchables" segment with Martin Balsam. And she made the pilot for "Joe and Josie" with Mort Sahl. This is a comedy, very funny she says, with Mort as a taxi driver and herself as his wife. It's due on ABC this fall.

MEANWHILE, back at the cemetery, Sheldon was shooting a scene for the segment which is called "Love Is a Skinny Kid". This cemetery, located high on the top of a wooded hill, is a beautiful spot, though the trees were bare. Some of the tombstones date back to the 1880's, and many are for children who died at the ages of 3 or 8 years.

Here in the bright Texas sunshine, a blonde, big-eyed Dallas youngster, 6-year-old Ann FitzGerald, was making her acting debut, as the frightened daughter of Miss Leachman, the villainess in the piece.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John FitzGerald, 13525 Brookgreen, Ann and her sister, Jennifer, 4, both have roles in this episode.

Tuesday will be seen as the embittered 18-year-old whose mother put her in a mental institution, then declared her dead, with a tombstone in the local cemetery to prove it.

The little FitzGerald girls play the mistreated girl at the ages of 3 and 6. Neither child has ever acted before, and they got the parts when their parents heard two blonde girls of those ages were needed. And both are doing nicely, according to Mr. Sheldon.