

The two men stride toward each other on the Western street. They stop. They draw their guns. Pow! The man in black bites the dust. And another episode of *Gunsmoke* begins. That's how it's been every Saturday night since 1956, when *Gunsmoke* started using this showdown scene to open every program. This season's episodes have been true to the tradition, but sharp-eyed viewers may have noticed some subtle differences.

The fact is, after using the same footage for eight years, *Gunsmoke* finally reshot the scene this summer. They had to-the original negative was worn out. Besides, *Gunsmoke* now films on a differ-

ent location. As you can see above in the before (left) and after (right) photos, Dodge City's main drag doesn't look the way it used to. Nor does Matt Dillon-James Arness was 32 when the series started; now he's 41.

The action in the scene is the same. The bad guy, however, has changed. An extra named Arvo Ojala was Arness's original adversary. His place has been taken by Fred McDougall, who has been with *Gunsmoke* from the beginning-as a bartender in the long Branch. It 'took about 15 retakes before the scene was right. McDougall, too fast on the draw, kept getting the drop on the marshal.