

Many original cast members 'Return To Green Acres'

Alvy Moore reprises Hank Kimball role

By Mary Ann Townsend

It was old home week in Hooterville earlier this year when eight members from the original *Green Acres* cast reunited to film a two-hour special movie that will air Friday, May 18, on CBS.

Reprising their roles in *Return To Green Acres* are Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor as Oliver and Lisa Douglas, Alvy Moore as county agent Hank Kimball, Pat Buttram as conniving junk man Mr. Haney, Tom Lester as hired hand Eb Dawson, Frank Cady as shopkeeper Sam Drucker and Sid Melton and Mary Grace Canfield as carpenters Alf and Ralph Monroe. Mary Tanner plays Daisy Ziffel, and Arnold the Pig returns to welcome special guest star Henry Gibson.

According to Alvy Moore, who recreates his role as bumbling and indecisive Mr. Kimball, his co-stars had changed. Well, they hadn't actually changed, just maybe added a few

years since the show ended nearly two decades ago. Actually, on second thought, not much had changed at all.

"We slipped back into it very easily, you know, you see the people and say 'Hi,' as if it were yesterday," Moore said.

The actor said that although he's gone on to other things, he has kept in touch with several of the *Green Acres* cast members through the years. He has collaborated with Lester on two horror movies released on video and a couple of television projects, has played in some charity golf tournaments with Cady and has run into Buttram at breakfast in Palm Desert.

Although he admits critics of the time lambasted the show in its original run from 1965 to 1971, Moore said the viewing public has proven the show's worth through its mega success in syndication. He attributes brilliant writers for the show's staying power.

They subtly touched on universal topics, like transportation, taxes,



Alvy Moore, an original *Green Acres* cast member, recreates his role as Hank Kimball.

bureaucracy—many of the problems we still have today.

"Our problems haven't changed, we've still got the same problems—and that's why I think today these shows seem right on key, they're modern. Our problems are the same problems they were writing about then," Moore said. "I think that's one of the reasons that the show keeps up to date, you can go along with it in a nonsensical way."

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