Hometown Humor With Eddie Albert

There’s a whole new crop of hilarious comedy coming to Channel 11 starting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16 on GREEN ACRES, in color, which reflects the bawdy careers of two super-sophistocates who migrate from a Park Avenue penthouse. They move to a run-down dwelling on 160 acres of weedy farm land out in Hooterville Valley. Eddie Albert stars as Oliver Wendell Douglas, a successful New York lawyer who thought the grass was greener on the other side of the fence until he moved there. Eva Gabor co-stars as his glamorous helpmate, Lisa, society leader of the seedy set. Continuing characters include Pat Buttram as Mr. Haney, wheeler-dealer in everything from dreams to schemes; Tom Lester as Eh, the hired hand; Alvy Moore as Hank Kimball, the uncertain County Agency; and Mary Grace Canfield and Sid Melton as a brother and sister team of carpenters who take a whirl at remodeling the Douglas domain. Rostous action and hilarious high-jinks continue to befuddle Oliver and Lisa as they painlessly attempt to modernize GREEN ACRES and their efforts are persistently being hampered by the elements, nosy neighbors and each other.

GREEN ACRES, produced by Filmways TV Productions, Inc., distributed by Filmways Syndication Sales, executive producer, Paul Henning, producer, Jay Sommers, directing, Richard Bare writers, Jay Sommers and Dick Chivitlal.

ROD TAYLOR

Rod Taylor, whose adventure-filled real life parallels roles he plays on the screen, was born in Sydney, Australia, January 11. His father, William Sturt Taylor, a steel construction contractor, and his mother, writer Mona Stewart, hoped he would become an artist and he took art courses at Parramatta High School and at Sydney Technical and Fine Arts College.

He was wavering between art and acting when Laurence Olivier came to Sydney with the Old Vic Company and his mind was made up. He turned his boundless energy and enthusiasm to acting and in 1954 Australian critics voted him the coveted Rola Award as best actor of the year.

He arrived in Hollywood in 1955 in what he calls “My too-tight Australian tweeds,” and was greeted without warmth at the airport by two studio representatives who had received enthusiastic wires from Australia about this new star and expected a Rock Hudson or Cary Grant type.

He quit the studio after three months and spent the next nine months at the beach fishing, to eat, not for fun. “If the fish didn’t bite, I didn’t eat,” he says.

DENNIS COLE

Dennis Cole, a former stuntman who can now have a stuntman of his own, was born July 1 in Detroit, Mich. He learned to play the trumpet from his father, Pep Cole, and he played in the orchestra at Southeastern High School while earning a football scholarship to the University of Detroit. Music won out, however, and he came to Hollywood where he worked as a stuntman, double, extra, musician, dance instructor and doorman-bouncer in a nightclub.

While working as an extra at Warner Brothers Studio he was asked to double for Troy Donahue, an association that continued through three films and a season on the “Hawaiian Eye” television series. Unlike many performers, who play cards or read when not in a scene, Cole spent his time studying the work on both sides of the camera, noting each problem and how it was solved. He expects eventually to have his own production company.

Several acting assignments in the “Dr. Kildare” series followed and his career took an upswing when he met Katharine Hepburn and George Cukor who sensed his talent and persuaded agent Robert Raison to take him on as a client. Raison got him signed as star of the then-new daytime series “Paradise Bay” and nine months later he moved to “Felony Squad,” where for three years he built a sizable reputation as the young police officer, Jim Briggs.