

Beulah

US TV sitcom : 1950-53 : dir. : ABC : c100 x 25 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

(1950 = Ethel Waters; Percy Harris; William Post Jr; Ginger Jones); Hattie McDaniel;
 Louise Beavers; Dooley Wilson; David Bruce; Jane Frazee; Butterfly McQueen

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Beulah mk III – Louise Beavers (rear)

Source: How Sweet It Was

Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"Trials and tribulations of a family with a sassy black cook. Cheerful stereotyped comedy about a character who originated on radio's "Fibber McGee". Many black actors as guest stars. Created by Martin Hunt. * "

How Sweet It Was - Television: A Pictorial Commentary note:

"The central role of this comedy series, that of a Negro domestic, was originally played by Ethel Waters in 1950. It was later performed by both Hattie McDaniel and Louise Beavers."

[no listing in "The Encyclopedia of TV Science Fiction", "History of Television", "How Sweet It Was", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. Was "Fibber McGee" the householder? His son? A friend of the cook's? If the son of the family had indeed been the central character of the original radio series that would make this title of greater interest. "How Sweet It Was" cites a handful of other American series built around maids or butlers – "**Hazel**" (61), "**Our Man Higgins**" (62), "**Grindl**" (63), while Britain supplied the inimitable Jeeves, if none other. From the race point of view, "**Beulah**" – a full decade before the civil rights movement took off - was an inevitable step on the road to Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey or "**The Fresh Prince of Bel Air**", though I doubt black audiences today would see it so charitably. The identity of the boy pictured is not known.

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