

The U.S. Steel Hour: "Beaver Patrol"

US TV play : 19 : dir. : ? min
 prod: : scr: John Vlahos : dir.ph.:
Johnny Borden; Seth Edwards; Luke Halpin; Jimmie Rodgers; Thomas Tai; Johnny Towsen
 Walter Slezak

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3605a	1½	1	1	- - - - -		No	Unseen



Before the dolphin: a young Luke Halpin, third beaver from right

Source: How Sweet It Was

How Sweet It Was note:

“ "The U.S. Steel Hour" was telecast every other week from 1953 to 1963, under the aegis of the Theatre Guild. As the years passed, "Steel Hour" did fewer and fewer serious original dramas and more and more light comedies and adaptations. This play won a comedy-writing award for its author, John Vlahos. Walter Slezak starred and the kids were (from left) Thomas Tai, Seth Edwards, Johnny Borden, Luke Halpin, Jimmie Rodgers, and Johnny Towsen.”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. Since no date is given for this broadcast, and exterior shooting was involved, we can only assume it was closer to 63 than 53. "**The U.S. Steel Hour**", according to *The History of Television*, was initially a platform for live drama, which was particularly strong on US TV in the fifties: "*The dramas were live for several reasons. They were conceived in the tradition of legitimate theatre, and to record them seemed somehow dishonest. Tape was not sophisticated enough to use. Radio plays, a close relation, were always performed live. There was a commercial attraction in the live performance, denoting respect for the viewer...*". Whether or not respect for the viewer was still a pressing concern by the time of "**Beaver Patrol**" we can only speculate.

It's amusing to see the young Luke Halpin in beaver mode. Born in 1947, his only real claim to fame was as chaperone to a dolphin in the TV series "**Flipper**" (63-66) and two movie spinoffs, but he also appeared in "**STREET OF SINNERS**" (57), "**ISLAND OF THE LOST**" (67) and a few unmemorable later films. None of the other boys named are listed in *The Moving Picture Boy*, which is not to say that some of them may not have done other TV work.

See subject index under **COMEDY, SCOUTS & SCOUTING** and **TV PLAYS**.