

"Benny Havens, Oh!"



Benny Havens

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

From Nevada's hoary ridges, from stormy coasts of Maine, From Lava Beds and Yellow Stone the story never waned; Whenever duty called, they went, their steps were never slow; With "Alma Mater" on their lips and "Benny Havens, Oh!"

When this life's troubled sea is o'er and our last battle's through, If God permits us mortals there his blest domain to view, Then we shall see in glory crowned, in proud celestial row, The friends we've known and loved so well at Benny Havens, Oh!"

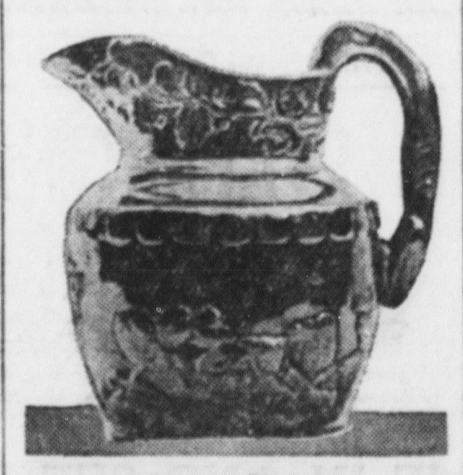
WHAT officer of the United States army from the merest "shave tall" up to a general with four stars on his shoulders has not heard that verse and for a brief moment been carried back to "Alma Mater," the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y. For one of the most picturesque and beloved traditions of that famous military school where tradition is so strong, centers around the name of Benny Havens.

Who was Benny Havens? One of America's famous generals, a graduate of whom West Point is proud? A beloved teacher at the academy? Well, hardly! Sometime prior to 1832 Benny Havens came to West Point and occupied a one-story cottage a short distance west of where the old cadet hospital, now the nurses' quarters, stands. What his ancestry was or where he came from no one seems to know. But after all those things are relatively unimportant, for the beginnings of a tradition are frequently wrapped in a mist of obscurity, but a tradition is none the less dear on that account. In the early days of Benny's residence at the post he sold to the cadets ale, cakes and cider, and in the winter, buckwheat cakes and cider flip. Later on the cider flip became ale flip and still later something a bit stronger was added to his bill of fare. It was this "something" which led to Benny's undoing, for he was expelled from the reservation.

By this time Benny had become so attached to the corps of cadets and the cadets had become so attached to Benny that neither could think of allowing this expulsion to mean his retirement to the obscurity from which he had come. So he set up his little shop just off the post in what later became known as "The House by the River," a Mecca to which so many of West Point's famous sons made frequent, even if forbidden, pilgrimages. For slipping out of bounds to the hospitable freside of Benny Havens, where food and drink could be illegally obtained, contrary to the rules and regulations which have always characterized the dignity and order of this severe academy, was one of the offenses for which a cadet could be "skinned" (today they call it "squilled," i. e. reported for one of the many breaches of regulations).

For instance, take the case of Cadet Armstrong Custer of Ohio along about the year 1861. Custer himself has recorded "my offenses against law and order were not great in enormity but

what they lacked in magnitude they made up in number. The forbidden locality of Benny Havens possessed stronger attractions than the study and demonstration of a problem in Euclid." If you go to West Point today you can find in an old sheepskin bound volume the record of Custer's "skin sheet," bearing the list of offenses and many of them are for partaking of Benny's hospitality. Since a cadet is allowed 835 demerits before he is dismissed, Custer had only 23 more to go when he was graduated. So he came very nearly being denied his chance for fame and America came very nearly losing one of her most brilliant cavalry officers. But if Benny Havens had a part in this, it was by no means a unique case. Many another officer who later became famous could testify to a number of "skins" because they simply could not resist



Benny's Pitcher.

the charm of Benny Havens' hospitality. "Benny Havens' character was many sided, kind to children, invariably courteous to women," so reads a sketch in "Bugle Notes," the handbook of the United States Corps of Cadets, or "the plebes' Bible," as it is called at West Point. "He was possessed of a terrible and ungovernable temper. There was an indefinable something about his personality, that bound his friends to him by inseparable ties. Virtues and qualities were his which helped to shape the lives of and give guidance to, as they rose to life's pinnacles, many whose names are now engraved on the pages of history."

For instance there was a certain cadet named Edgar Allan Poe. During the short stay of that erratic individual at the academy, (he was dismissed after being there about six

months) Poe frequently visited Benny's place of business while it was still on the reservation and became devoted to him. The future poet often remarked that "Benny was the sole congenial soul in the entire God-forsaken place."

Benny lived to the ripe old age of eighty-eight years. Taps were sounded for him on May 29, 1877, and now he sleeps in the Highland Union cemetery on the banks of the river he loved so well. But West Point is rich in memories of Benny Havens. If you go there today they will show you the pitcher from which he served his famous cider flip. But most of all his fame is preserved in the song which has been carried literally around the world by West Pointers. That song was composed early in his career. It was written about 1838 when Lucius O'Brien of Maryland, a lieutenant in the Eighth Infantry was visiting a friend, Riley A. Arnold, then a first classman. Together they spent many a congenial evening at Benny's place and, so the story goes, O'Brien and his friends composed a poem about Benny and set it to the tune of "The Wearing of the Green." It immediately became popular at West Point and for the next quarter of a century one of the first things a plebe did was to learn to sing "Benny Havens, Oh!" During the summer days of 1865 when day after day the steamers bearing home the veterans of the Civil war passed Benny's little cottage on the banks of the Hudson the bands would strike up one tune and Benny would hear hundreds of voices joining in the singing of:

Come fill your glasses, fellows, and stand up in a row To singing sentimentally we're going for to go; In the army there's sobriety, promotion's very slow So we'll sing our reminiscences of Benny Havens, Oh!

CHORUS: Oh! Benny Havens, Oh! Oh! Benny Havens, Oh! We'll sing our reminiscences of Benny Havens, Oh!

To our kind old Alma Mater, our rock-bound Highland Home, We'll cast many a fond regret as o'er life's sea we roam; Until on our last battle field, the light of heaven shall glow, We'll never fall to drink to her, and Benny Havens, Oh!

CHORUS: "May the Army be augmented, may promotion be less slow May our country in the hour of need be ready for the foe; May we find a soldier's resting place beneath a soldier's blow With room enough beside our graves for Benny Havens, Oh!"

riage vows are being issued by the Mothers' Union of England. They are of a size convenient for carrying in the pocket, and printed in silver or white. They record the date and place of the marriage and the name of the contracting parties, and they reproduce the essential portions of the marriage service which have reference to marital fidelity. It is intended that each married couple should have two cards, one for retention by the husband and one by the wife.

Navy Is Popular for Misses' Duds

Flowered Chiffons, Taffeta Prominent Among Materials Favored.

Women of adult years who think the problem of finding suitable clothes at all difficult would be enormously cheered up if they remembered the bitter struggles of their teens, observes a fashion writer in the New York World.

When you have a deep yearning for a beaded evening dress of undoubted décolleté and your mother is firm in her preference for pink rosebuds, no good will ever come of it. With this difficult problem in mind several of the large shops have started new junior departments dedicated to the awkward age, but referred to in tactful French as catering to the "jeune fille."

The old misses' department have been so courted by the small woman of legitimately grownup tastes that they have gradually acquired an air of sophistication which makes most of their costumes too worldly to pass muster at even the most lenient boarding school.

The radical differences between the costumes proper to those who are seventeen and those who are still hopefully waiting are in the evening dresses. The most demure of these are set aside for boarding school dress-up evenings, when long sleeves and other boring features are usually required.

These gowns appear in their prettiest versions in flowered chiffons that show a small, widely scattered pattern on a pale ground. Chiffon and taffeta are the fabrics most employed, and a quite respectable bouffant effect is permitted in the latter material.

In the more dashing costumes which the girl may wear for formal dinner during vacations, sleeves are omitted but only the primest suggestion of a décolleté is considered smart. The uneven hem is also reserved for those blessed days after the debut and it is felt very strongly by the authorities in such matters that Louiseboulanger did not design the down-in-the-back movement for young chits still awaiting their diplomas.

Flowered Taffeta Party Dresses.

One charming affair suitable to these trying years is an adaptation of Augusta Bernard's deep blue taffeta and tulle, with its tight little bodice, high waistline and tiers and tiers of tulle making the flaring skirt. In some versions a taffeta skirt is substituted. There are many beguiling ruffles and tiny sleeves appear.

Another amusing evening dress, of yellow taffeta this time, has a properly modest neckline and arm-holes and has the very high waistline emphasized by a large crushed chou of navy blue taffeta. This would be a splendid compromise between the Pola Negri leanings of the daughter and her mother's more conservative taste.

Two-toned taffeta affairs made up on quaint lines, are considered good, and flowered taffeta is charming. Watch for tulle butterfly bows and for diagonal taffeta collars that cover the shoulders instead of sleeves.

As far as daytime clothes go, there are few forbidden paths for the young girl. Since every woman who steps into a sports costume hopes to look seventeen, the girl of this age is sitting pretty. She will find that this year's



Navy and White Smart Color Combination for Spring Ensemble.

smartest daytime things emphasize the one-piece dress accompanied by an impertinent little jacket in preference to the two-piece mode. There will be a wide belt defining the natural waistline.

There will be shown many combinations of a Jersey dress and Jersey coat, or of a coat, blouse and little jacket, all of Jersey. In such outfits as these, and also when a Jersey blouse accompanies the conventional tweed suit, the newest practice is to have the blouse of a darker shade than the coat and skirt. The blouse is almost always of the tuck-in variety, about which there is such a pother these days. If any one can carry off this fashion with

grace, it is the young thing whose waistline is a gloriously concrete fact.

Coats May Be Double-Breasted.
Several good examples of all these types of costume are now available for spring. One smart ensemble, carried out in a two-tone arrangement of solid bands of color contrasting at various points, has a knife-plaited skirt which suddenly goes straight just above the hips. A tiny belt, placed high, emphasizes the thin waist that is the reward of basket ball practice, and the accompanying little jacket has a scarf collar.

An interesting crepe dress is printed in a conventional tricolor pattern (incidentally young things are not going to have any monopoly on the national colors for spring), and is interesting in illustrating the new straight up and down back which has set Paris a twitter. The skirt is circular only in the front, a bow at the waist draws the blouse to a high waistline in the front only and the little jacket is unlined.

Coats for the flapper demand earnest attention as she is forbidden fox scarfs and must always worry along with whatever fur may come attached to the



Youthful Outfit for Spring, With Coat of Tweed and Knit Cap.

coat. Some smart coats are being shown in a sort of string tweed and some in that novelty tweed that looks heavy and is light.

The coats and suits are accompanied by simple scarf collars or else are finished off, man's style, with a notched collar, to be later supplemented by a folded scarf of heavy silk. The coats may be full or three-quarters length, but must have an air of delicate simplicity. One very chic coat is double-breasted and has only two buttons, arranged horizontally.

Many of the suits are made on equally severe lines in plain tweed, and have either a short or three-quarter length coat. One suit of the latter type is of the double-breasted school and has a broad suede belt and a skirt intended to be worn with a tucked-in blouse.

Lighter suits are made of shark-skin, woven wool or man's suiting, and are thoroughly businesslike affairs, with notched collars, a kick plait on either side of the skirt and a double-breasted coat.

Navy and white will be a smart color combination for the spring ensemble. A navy repp jacket suit that is jauntily bordered with a band of white wool, the overblouse a blue and white printed affair of unusual possibilities, with an off-the-forehead hat, comprises an outfit that bids for favor. Smart and youthful is a coat of tweed, worn with an orange and tomato scarf, and an angora knit cap.

Gay Colors for Hats.
The spring hats show a large variety of straws and near-straws which are used in combination with felt crowns. Braid tweed straws and milan braid straws are shown in all shades from pale pastels to a red that would give any bull a bad fit of hysterics.

The tam, the beret and the turban in their less sophisticated versions are all grist to the young girl's mill. One floppy tam is of angora straw in the orchid shade that will be very popular when summer is definitely here. The gob hat, worn by languid ladies on the Riviera beaches, is developed in a two-toned crocheted straw with a smart little velvet bow placed immediately on the top of the head.

A rather less casual hat of this type is developed in a wool and straw braid of pink and white and shows a little lining of French blue grosgrain ribbon about the scalloped brim. Utterly shapeless and charming are some hats of tricolor wool braid that looks like straw and cannot be crushed by the most indefatigable of school children. The Deauville cap, developed in wool jersey of the stocking-cap sort, uses two bright colors combined in alternating pie-slices. Beret tams, hand crocheted in Austria in modernistic patterns, will tempt many mothers to sneak into their daughter's closets and coolly annex them.

More conventional hats of straw will be interesting this year in that their very noticeable brims will usually be even all the way around. Later peanut straws, bakus and milans will be very important and hats of woven straw will be shown in two tones that carry out the check idea.

Gingham is being stressed for summer wear and lots of hats will have gingham crowns, broad straw brims and triangular scarfs of matching gingham.



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Fletcher's CASTORIA

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 13-1929.

Famous French Scientist

Louis Pasteur, the celebrated French biological chemist and pathologist, was born at Dole, Jura, December 27, 1822. Devoting himself to the study of chemistry, he was graduated from Ecole Normale, Paris, in 1847; became professor of physics at Dijon, 1848; in the following year professor of chemistry at Strassburg. Later he carried on his researches at the Institute Pasteur, Paris. One of

the most important of the many results of Pasteur's investigations is the well-known treatment of hydrophobia, which he showed to be caused by the presence of specific bacteria in the blood, the spinal column of the infected animal serving as a culture medium. Pasteur died near St. Cloud, September 28, 1895.

Reminders of Pledges
Special cards for husbands and wives to remind them of their mar-