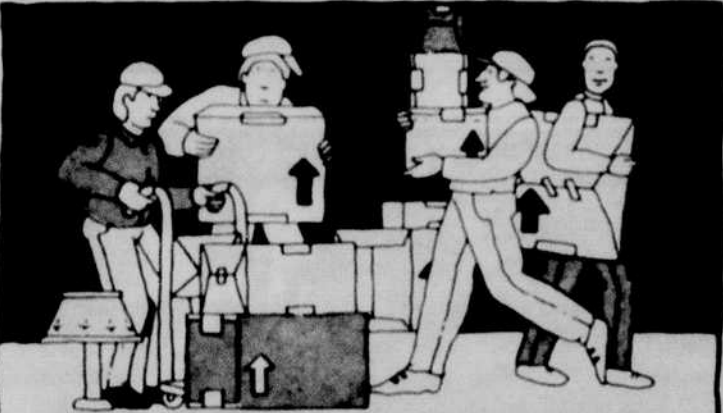




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PAST

Continued from Page 3B

Instead graduates received a small piece of rolled up paper, tied nicely with a satin string, and it had a statement of receipt written on it. The statement noted either "upon receipt of \$20 your diploma will be struck and sent to you" or "your diploma has been struck and will be sent to you."

Shortly after students returned home for the summer months in search of a new job, the diploma, if payment had been received, would arrive at students' door steps.

Today those same oversized diplomas, then costing a mere \$20, can be purchased by law, architecture and some medical science students for between \$400 to \$500.

Aside from commencement, graduation weekend has gone through a few alterations. The senior class once sponsored a senior ball in McArthur Court, open to all the classes. The senior ball came complete with a full orchestra, chaperone, dress suits and dance cards, which men had to sign in order to reserve a dance with a woman.

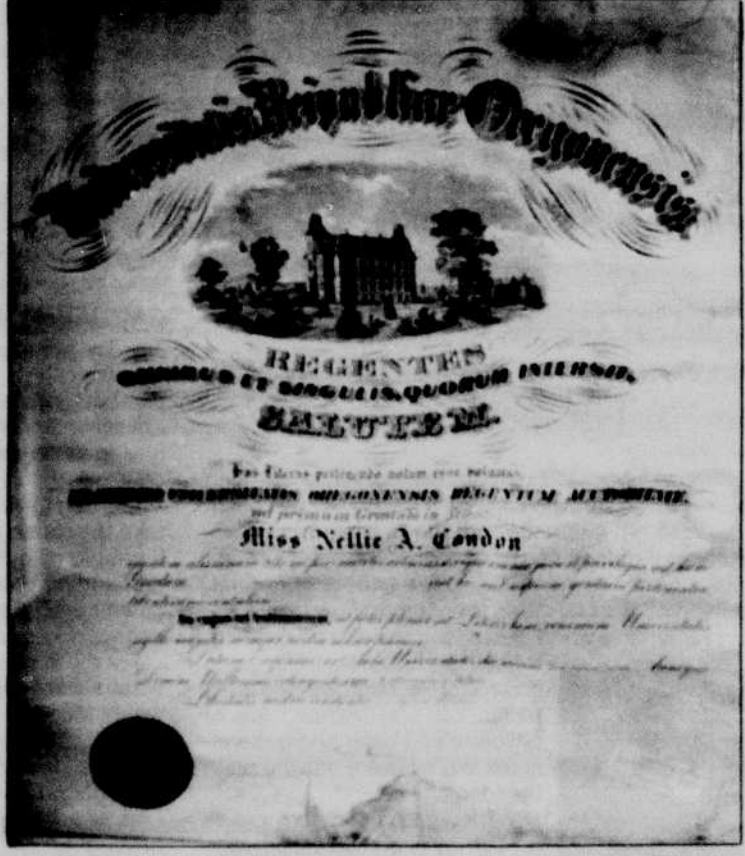
"They used to hire Duke Ellington and other types," Richard said.

Commencement was even a celebration in the beginning. It used to be held on Saturday at 8 p.m. in Mac Court and was also celebrated with a luncheon banquet in Straub Hall, which used to have a huge dining hall.

Sponsored by the Alumni Association for a small fee, the luncheon included seniors, alumni, parents, friends, faculty and the University president, who would give a statement of well wishes.

"Faculty were expected to attend both, commencement and the luncheon including cap and gown," Richard said. "They used to take roll and it was very difficult to get out of."

At one point in the 1920s, rather than taking roll they handed out paychecks, but that tradi-



Courtesy photo
 The original University diploma of 1878 (above) was struck on sheep skin. The program for the 1878 commencement, the University's first, is pictured at left.



tion did not last for long. There are a lot more students now, thousands as opposed to hundreds. Up until the 1970s, there were class officers, who could sponsor parties and events for the entire student body.

This year the parties and celebrating are up to the individuals. For some departments there are planned picnics and activities, but for most it is merely the ceremony.

Whether it be for the better of the students graduating or simply for the different, it remains a weekend specifically for the graduates. So, to the 1993, modern graduating class, congratulations on your big day and good luck with future endeavors.

— Calley Anderson

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