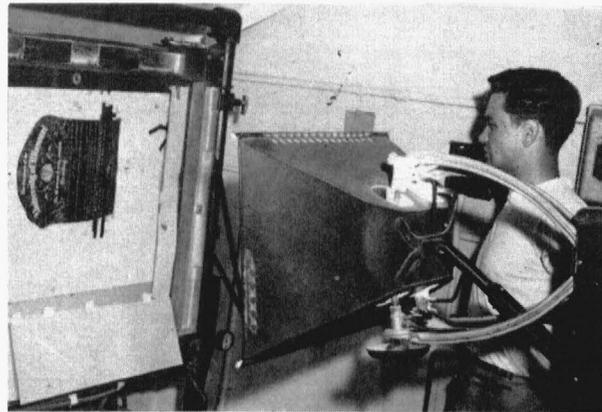


By Vivian Hansbrough



*Metal plate from which diplomas will be printed is made by Ralph Bader, a student who is majoring in education.*

## story of a diploma

Remembering the expression "receive his sheepskin" and recalling diplomas with elaborate hand lettering, the graduate may be surprised at the appearance of his diploma from the University of Missouri. It is printed on a heavy linen paper, instead of on some hapless sheep's hide, and his name and degree are in Old English script type, without flourishes and curls. However, he is so happy to end the long grind that he merely glances at the coveted symbol of graduation and rushes to get it framed for his family to admire.

Any graduate can tell of years of preparation, on his part. What he does not realize is that numerous employees of the University worked from February 1 until 10:30 a.m., June 6, to get diplomas ready for presentation. Miss Sallie Grant, assistant director of admissions and "shepherdess" of diplomas for the past twenty years at the University, and Howard Johnson, foreman of the typesetting department of Photo Service, cooperated in the compilation of this behind-the-scenes story of preparation of a diploma.

At the beginning of the second semester, Miss Grant sends letters to the deans of the eleven divisions, asking for the number of graduates anticipated, by men and women. She sends an order immediately to Photo Service to prepare the correct number of background diplomas, specifying how many should say "him" and how many "her."

The number of diplomas printed usually runs approximately 350 to 400 for February, 1400 for June, and 350 to 500 for August. These figures allow for discarding those that have errors, as well as the ones for which candidates do not meet requirements. Diplomas for Rolla School of Mines are not printed in Columbia.

The University issued sheepskin diplomas until 1941, when the price became prohibitive. Parchment proved to be too temperamental to use, since it is affected by changes in the weather. The paper stock selected comes in sheets large enough for four di-

plomas measuring 14" x 17". The stock is cut to diploma size before printing.

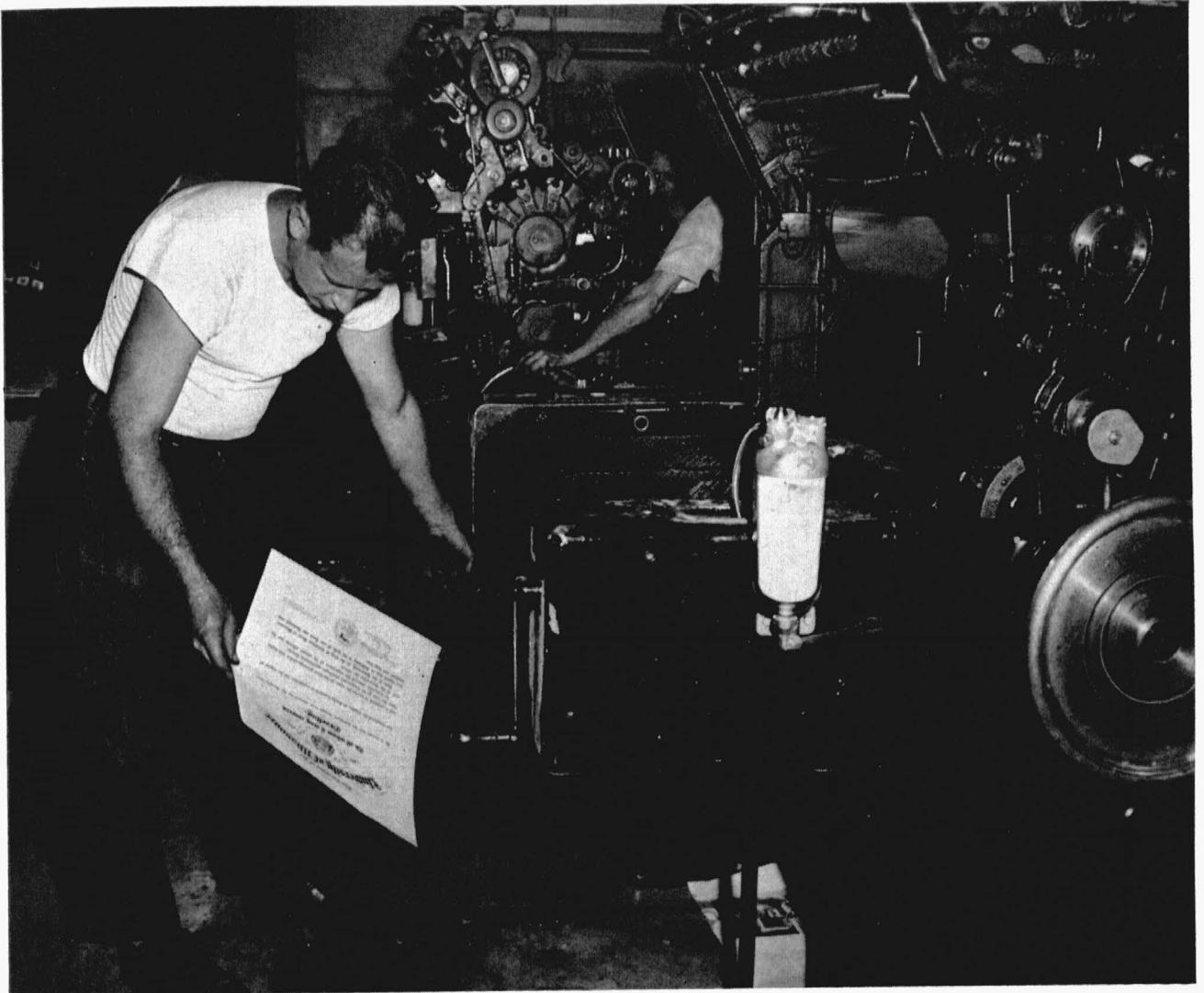
Students employed part-time do most of the printshop work. First, an employee locates the two negatives from which diplomas were printed last time. The last three lines of type are reset, to agree with the date of graduation. These three lines of type, in negative form, are stripped in, to replace the corresponding lines in the master negative. Next, metal plates are made from the corrected negatives. These plates then are sent to the pressroom, where a full-time shop employee prints, by the offset process, the specified number of background diplomas for men and for women. At this stage, the graduate's name and degree are missing, as is the signature of the dean of his division. Other signatures are included in the printed diploma.

Back in the admissions office, there is more activity. Within two weeks after the first estimate of the number of candidates, the deans submit tentative lists of persons expected to qualify for degrees. Miss Grant mails a double postal card to each candidate. One card lists fees, such as: diploma, \$5.00; microfilming and binding master's thesis, \$5.00; doctor's hood, \$20.00; microfilming and binding doctor's dissertation, \$30.00. The other card has space for the candidate to write his name as it is to appear on his diploma and information needed for publicity.

As soon as she receives the students' replies, Miss Grant checks names with the permanent record cards and types lists for the typesetting department of Photo Service to use in preparing the diplomas, indicating men and women by colored pencil check marks.

Every year there are some mistakes, due to confusion of masculine and feminine names. Usually such errors are caught before graduation. If the error is not found, then Tommy Joe complains that she does not want "him" on her diploma, and a new diploma is prepared for her.

The long, tedious task of handsetting names and degrees is performed by students, employed part-time.



*Above, a full-time employee in the pressroom removes the printed background diploma from the press. Right, Wayne Grannemann, education, hand-sets the type for the candidate's name and degree.*



Pictures by the author.



*Lee Farmer, agriculture, removes the completed diploma from the proofpress.*



*Miss Sallie Grant of Admissions Office rolls the doctors' diplomas and ties them with black and gold ribbons.*

Each letter of type must be selected from the case and inserted in the type stick. Graduates often wish their full names used, and married women want the full maiden name plus the added surname. Initials of degrees already earned are added after the name. The degree being conferred is spelled in full. All of this handsetting of type is slow work. After the type is used it must be redistributed in the case.

The handset type is locked in a form, and a background diploma is inserted on the proofpress. One careful turn of the proofpress roller prints the candidate's name and degree on his diploma. Handling the diploma cautiously, an employee places it on a counter to dry overnight.

Miss Grant makes daily trips to Photo Service to pick up finished diplomas. She checks the spelling of names with the original requests from the candidates, and passes the diplomas to the cashier's office for further checking, this time to make sure the students have met financial obligations.

A few days before Commencement, the deans receive reports of candidates for degrees. They check the records of candidates to be certain that scholastic requirements have been met. The faculty of each division has a meeting to recommend candidates for

degrees, and the dean signs the diplomas for his division. In turn, the Board of Curators gives approval.

The admissions office, the cashier's office, and the registrar's office receive lists of those students who have completed requirements. Finally, Miss Grant checks the diplomas with her approved lists, setting

*Continued on page 24*



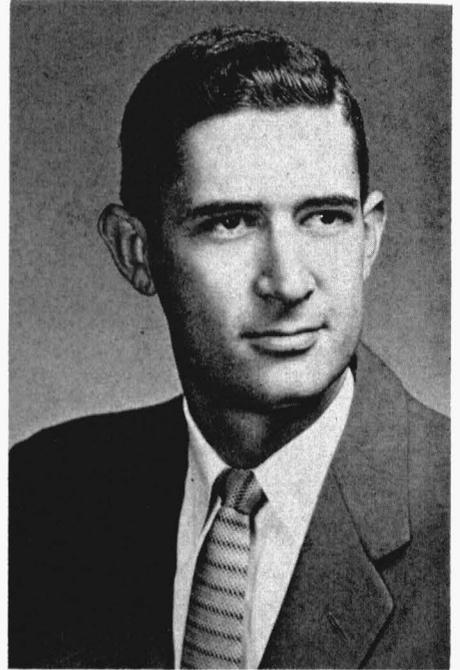
*At last, the diploma has found its rightful owner.*

## Morris new president

John A. Morris of Jefferson City, Mo., is the new president of the University of Missouri Alumni Association, and at the age of 30 he is the youngest alumnus elected to hold that office. In the past year Morris has been vice-president of the Association and chairman of its committee on public information.

Other officers elected for 1957-58 are three vice-presidents: John E. (Jack) Keith, '39, St. Louis; William Toler, '48, Kansas City; and Dr. Arch Lowe, '39, Springfield. Hartley Banks of Columbia, secretary since 1931, was re-elected to begin his 28th year. G. H. (Bus) Entsminger continues as secretary.

Morris, '50, is secretary of the Central Missouri Trust Company in Jefferson City where he has served as president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, general chairman of the Cole County Fair, and director of the Chamber of Commerce. He received the Junior C. of C. "Outstanding Young Man" Award for 1957. He received a B.S. in Finance degree from the University. He also has an M.B.A. degree from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Morris is the former Mary Patricia Montgomery of Maryville, Mo. They have three children: Sarah, 6; David, 4; and Robert, nine months. The home address is Old St. Louis Road.



John A. Morris

## TV course for credit

The University will offer a three-hour English course titled "Epic America" as a live television program in the fall. Students may enroll for credit toward a degree. Dr. John G. Neihardt, Lecturer in English, will give a half-hour lecture each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4:30 p. m. between September 18 and January 22. Dr. Neihardt is author of "A Cycle of the West."

Anyone within range of the University's television station KOMU may listen to the lectures, but to obtain credit a potential student should enroll at the University and be prepared to take trial tests and two examinations. Materials that include printed assignments and course outlines will be sent to anyone interested. Dr. Neihardt will devote full time to the television course. He has been on the University teaching staff since 1949. This will be the first television course for credit offered by M. U.

About \$21,113 has been left to the University School of Law from the estate of Robert S. Eastin of Kansas City, a '31 alumnus who died April 22. He left an estate of \$147,792. One-seventh, all in personal property, was left to the School of Law.

Dr. Fred McKinney, professor of psychology at the University, has been awarded a Fulbright lectureship in psychology at the University of Ankara, Turkey, where he will lecture for nine months, beginning November 1. Dr. and Mrs. McKinney, their son Kent, and two daughters, Molly and Doyne, will leave Columbia on August 3 for New York, where they will visit their daughter Megan, Mrs. Robert Whitfield.

They plan to sail for Southampton, England, later in the month and tour Europe by auto. Dr. McKinney is currently president of division two of the American Psychological Association. He is the author or co-author of several textbooks. His latest is "Counseling for Personal Adjustment," published in April by Houghton-Mifflin.

## STORY OF A DIPLOMA

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aside the ones that are not to be issued. She rolls the Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Education diplomas, and ties them with black and gold ribbons. Other diplomas are left flat, grouped by divisions.

At the close of Commencement exercises, doctors' candidates approach the stage to receive hoods and diplomas. Each candidate marches up the ramp, hands a card with his name to a member of the faculty, who then gives the card to the announcer. Dr. Charlotte Wells, professor of speech, announces the name as the candidate goes to the center of the platform, where the doctor's hood is hung by two members of the faculty. As the candidate leaves the stage, he is greeted by the dean of the Graduate Division, who hands him the diploma and congratulates him.

Diplomas for bachelors, masters, doctors of medicine, and doctors of veterinary medicine are handed out at designated distribution spots after the public exercises. Deans of divisions usually are on hand to make a ceremony of these presentations.

At last, the diplomas have found their rightful owners, and the graduates are all smiles. Miss Grant and her co-workers breathe freely for a few days, before starting to prepare diplomas for the next group of M.U. graduates.