

Dunkel-- Now, let me see, Alice, it was only about 1920 when I took my Physical Education here and we were still doing wand drills, swinging Indian clubs and taking deep knee bends 1 - 2 - 3 - 4.

Hoover -- Yes, I can remember those classes with 90 and 100 students in them. But really setting up exercises and drills were about all you could do with that large a class in our size gymnasium and in those days physical education --

Sherbon-- But it wasn't physical education then, it was physical culture - those were the muscle building days. Then after the war, with its emphasis on discipline, we had physical training, discipline and precise.

Dunkel -- Very true. This concept of physically educating a person is comparatively recent and it is a direct outgrowth of modern ideals in general education.

Hoover -- I remember just when that change from the formal type of work was made at Kansas, for it was during my first year here, in 1921. I will never forget how Miss Barto, who was head of the Physical Education department at that time, had just come directly from Columbia University, and was imbued with the idea of an elective sports, swimming and dancing program. So she and I divided our 90 or so into smaller groups and allowed them a choice of several recreative activities. One or two members of the original staff refused to cooperate and would not put their classes into the elective program, because they emphatically felt that was not physical training.

Sherbon --But why in the world were there ever such large classes as 90 and 100?

Hoover -- Well, it seems the war had something to do with that situation too, for with the great interest in physical fitness for soldiers, the Board of Regents ruled all students, women as well as men, should take Physical Education.

Dr. Sherbon, who was the woman's physician at that time, recalls with no pleasure the conditions under which she was forced to meet these demands.

Imagine! - one physical education instructor, 400 students, a small gymnasium, 1 shower, no dressing rooms and very little equipment. So you can see with Physical Education required how the classes had to be large to accommodate them.

Sherbon-- Speaking of required Physical Education -- it isn't required now, is it?

Dunkel -- No, that's the result again of forces outside our control. Retrenchment made necessary by the depression reduced the teaching staff so that it was impossible to accommodate a required enrollment, so the program was made elective and given full academic credit.

Sherbon-- Well, that is one step forward because many schools are working toward credit for Physical Education. But I still wonder about the fully elective program. How do you feel about it, Miss Hoover?

Hoover -- In a state that does not insure adequate Physical Education for its boys and girls during their grade and high school years, I feel that a Physical Education requirement in college is necessary.