

OK so my 1st question is what is a normal school ?

a normal school is where basically, where all the students study the same thing. Everybody has the same rules or standards that they are taught or that they adhere to, so if you start off in a particular class with a certain amount of people you will be in that class, you'll be in it through the entire program. You're going with through those very same people.

And I was reading about how the students were required to be members of literary societies, so I mean what is a literary society ?

a literary society is basically, when you're dealing with colleges, it's kind of like a precursor need to sororities or fraternities. When we had the early ones it was a requirement that everyone needs to be an a literary society because they thought it would make you more cultured or it would teach you manners, and you could learn from the other people that were in it with you. We had I would say more women's literary societies than men but the societies, most of the literary societies and the social societies and the social clubs turned national into Greek organizations '59 to '61.

and then I was reading about how the school was funded to Peabody. What is the Peabody Fund ?

He was a northern philanthropist who really thought that the Southern schools, especially the Texas schools needed to be better funded and they needed better facilities, and better teachers and they needed to teach teaching and in a certain manner so they would have better teachers within the state. He was especially fond of Texas and he made it a point to give money to Sam Houston Normal Institute. He died before he actually could deal with that so Bernard Sims - Sears excuse me, not Sims, he became his like his agent and he would go around to different schools and he liked same idea of a normal, of a teacher's college for Texas, so he was the one that's basically deal with the money part of it. They funded facilities, teacher salaries, what they called summer normals, where during the summer time they will go to these different places around Texas or at Sam Houston, and the teachers will come after they had finished teaching their classes for that year because a lot of them were employed during the regular time that the institute was working so that they could come in the summer and get you know updates or learn more or do different things like that were to a bigger degree.

and then my last question is what kind of classes did the students take ?

Back then they were heavy into classical educations, so most of the things they had in 1879 to 1888 - I just pulled - that one 1st, and they had government, and methods of culture, and things like arithmetic and Nethlodes which I have no idea what that means. Music and calisthenics, reading all those different kinds of very classic very simple things that teachers did in that time, probably because the places they went to teach were normally out, there weren't big cities, you're smaller and community and different things like that ,so they have to teach very simple things. By 1899 they had a lot of more different things like Texas history, Latin or ancient history. Latin was really big at that period. Doctor Estill, who later became our longest tenure president, he taught Latin here like his father did. You know mineralogy, chemistry and biology and by time you get to 1924, when the normal institute becomes Sam Houston State Teacher's College, I mean they have a Bulliten that's over 100 pages, so by that time they were offering bachelor's degrees, they gave the 1st one out in 1919 and then they were doing slowly away with the certificates and going to actually 4 year degrees and a diploma.