

## Letter to the editor

### Correcting history

It has been years since I spent my childhood summers at the Recreation Center (or as it was then known, "the Clubhouse") on Niedringhaus Avenue in Lincoln Place, but Granite City still occupies a soft spot in my heart and memories.

I've enjoyed reading the online Granite City history at <http://www.granitecity.illinois.gov/wfapp?ACTI=ONE&Node&NodeID=83>, but note that it is in error on several points.

My attempts through the Mayor's Office to have these errors corrected have been unsuccessful and, thus, I am writing this letter to you, many readers, some of whom may also have Lincoln Place roots. The entry for 1923 on the official Granite City online history reads, in part:

"1923: Miss Sophie [sic] Prather is employed by the Commonwealth to supervise and manage the programs at the new Community Center. She comes to this job after having taught for a few years at Washington School in West Granite & Hungary Hollow. She is the one that suggested that the name of Hungary Hollow be changed to Lincoln Place."

This entry is in error.

The name change from Hungary Hollow (later corrupted to Hungy Hollow) to Lincoln Place took place on Sunday, March 19, 1916, and was made at the request of Hollow residents, led by Nick Alabach, a Bulgarian Commonwealth Steel Co. employee. The request was made at a meeting of what was christened the Lincoln Progressive Club. Those present at the meeting included the Granite City Mayor J. C. Steele, Commonwealth president Clarence H. Howard, the superintendent of schools, the president of the school board, and the president of the Granite City Commercial Club.

According to American Iron and Steel Institute records, the name Lincoln Place was selected because its residents felt that the name "Hungary Hollow" did not fit their neighborhood and that "Lincoln Place" was aligned with their new ideals and aspirations, in that, Abraham Lincoln represented "all that is great in America."

I suspect that in the above quote, Sophia Prather is being confused with Miss Edna Haas, the original director of the Commonwealth "Home Fellowship Department," which was also formed in 1916.

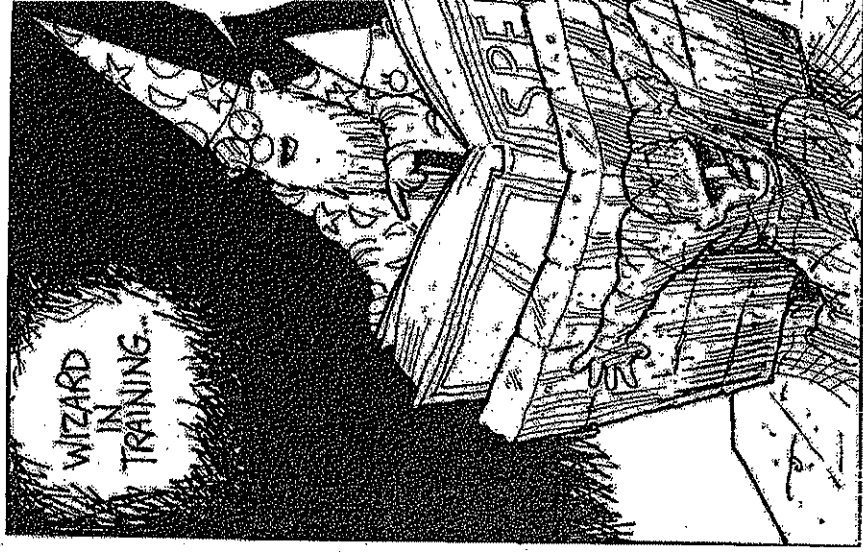
Miss Haas boarded with a Lincoln Place family and organized educational programs for residents and their children. Miss Prather, who passed away in 1936, held sway at the Clubhouse for many years and is still fondly remembered by older residents of Lincoln Place.

**Arthur G. Bedetan, Baton Rouge, La.**

## Some in Granite can't afford uniforms

The problem with the new Granite City school's uniform policy right now is not whether or not students should be forced to wear uniforms, but the fact that the city has limited funding to supplement a mandate such as this and the community lacks the funding as well.

This issue should be dismissed for the time being



### GUEST COLUMN

## Why Granite cho

By Dr. Harry Briggs  
GRANITE CITY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

For the purpose of this discussion I refer to our policy as a school uniform, but in reality it is a preferred dress policy with many options and colors.

The discourse on school uniforms has historically addressed a wide range of issues surrounding education. This issue touches the lives of students, parents, and educators alike. It invokes a passionate and emotional debate. For many, it is easy to see the positive effects of having a uniform policy. For others, it is just the system again dictating and parents asking the question, "Why should the school district dictate what my child wears to school?"

The most long-standing and widespread theme for

school safety and enhance the learning environment and diminish the clothing competition. A safe environment is the first requirement of a good school.

Will a school uniform policy ensure the safety of our children? No one knows for sure, but being proactive is important if we are to gain any advantage in the effort to make our schools safer.

In any event, the research, which in some cases is anecdotal, points to many positives attained by school uniforms. Ridding schools of gang colors is just one benefit principals attribute to uniforms, according to 2008 study.

A school uniform policy offers many positive benefits to the school setting. Those benefits can be found in a number of areas: