

Chapter 2 Fulks Run Elementary School

A new seven-room brick elementary school opened in Bergton in 1958, but Fulks Run children at that time were divided between at least two schools: the Genoa School, built in 1919 on Route 817; and Broadway Elementary School, which in 1952/53 absorbed pupils from the Fulks Run School on Dry River Road, the Mt. Pleasant (Fawley) School on Route 259, and the Runions Creek School on Route 610. It took determination, tenacity, and connections to get a school built in Fulks Run. The club's commitment to the school did not end when construction was completed in 1961, but continues today with substantial support for a wide variety of equipment and programs, Halloween and Christmas parties, and annual essay contests.

MEMORIES

By Garnett R. Turner, Charter Member; President 1959, 1976

Probably our most important project was the Fulks Run Elementary School. We did surveys on the prospective students living in the area and got petitions signed. We took a bus load of people before the School Board and county supervisors. The Board of Supervisors did not want to let all of us in the room but I told them our group did not mind standing. My high school classmate, Cecil Armentrout, was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He asked me to sit in the "Hot Seat" and be spokesman. We presented our case and left. That same afternoon, the supervisors passed a motion to build our school.

School Survey of the Brocks Gap Section

Grade School children from the Genoa section being hauled to Broadway by Boyd Estep: 20
Grade school children from the Post Office section going to Broadway hauled by William N. Bare, Jr.: 24
Grade school children from Runions Creek going to Broadway hauled by Ruel Tusing: 42
Grade school children from the Hopkins Gap section now going to Mt. Clinton School and hauled by Shirley Morris: 49
Grade school children from the Dry River section to Crider Bros.'s Store now going to Bergton School and hauled by Ernest Branner: 21
Grade school children from Crider Bros.'s Store on Rt. 259 via Riverside Church to Bergton Road intersection, by Ernest Branner, now attending Bergton School: 23
Total children now attending Genoa School: 57

From the survey compiled by Garnett Turner in 1958.

FROM THE MINUTES

May 6, 1958 President Andrew Thomas gave a talk about schools. This club went on record favoring an elementary school at Fulks Run.

Sept. 2, 1958 Andrew Thomas gave a talk on education and appointed a committee to meet with the County school board to ask for a 7 room elementary school at or near Fulks Run.

Oct. 7 1958 Garnett Turner gave a report of the committee meeting with the Rockingham County School Board.

Nov. 4, 1958 Garnett Turner gave a report on the progress of the Fulks Run Elementary School saying the Rockingham County School Board and Rockingham County Supervisors seem to be ready to go ahead if we can locate the land site.

Jan. 6, 1959 President Garnett Turner reported that plans are going good for an elementary school at Fulks Run.

Feb. 3, 1959 Garland Keplinger gave a report on Fulks Run school.

April 7, 1959 President Garnett Turner reported talking to a member of the Rockingham County School Board and he said the Fulks Run elementary school would be ready for the term beginning 1960-61.

Harrisonburg Daily News Record

[Undated, probably 1959]

New School At Fulks Run Is Authorized By School Board

A new elementary school at Fulks Run was authorized yesterday by the Rockingham county school board Supt. Wilbur S. Pence announced. The board's earlier decision for the Fulks Run location was supported by a survey team from the State Dept. of Education, which visited the Plains district area west of Broadway Friday.

Architect D.P. Davis Jr., of Harrisonburg, has been directed to draw plans for the Fulks Run building, which will be similar to those opened last year at Bergton and Ottobine.

Seek Literary Loan

Application to the State Literary Fund for a loan to finance the construction will be made with the approval of the Rockingham Board of Supervisors, Mr. Pence added. This application cannot be made until the school board has the deed for the six acre site to be acquired from the Turner and Fawley families near the Fulks Run postoffice.

While no promise as to the opening date of the school building can be made, Supt. Pence said that if the loan and plans are approved within a reasonable time it would be possible to have the new building ready for the beginning of the 1960-61 session.

(Continued on next page)

Complete Facilities

The new building will contain seven class rooms, a multiple-purpose room, kitchen, cafeteria, clinic and office like those in the new buildings at Bergton and Ottobine. Those buildings cost \$125,000 each. They were built at the same time. The Fulk's Run school, built alone, will probably cost more, Mr. Pence has been informed.

The school will have a capacity of 200 to 225 pupils. Crowding at the Broadway and Mt. Clinton elementary schools will be partially relieved.

There are 86 pupils from the area to be served by the new school now going to Broadway. Mt. Clinton enrolls 49 and Bergton 21. Those attending the present school at nearby Genoa would also go to the new building.

Site Now Available

The school board some months ago favored a site at Fulk's Run but ran into difficulties in trying to acquire the land. A community committee last week advised the board that the site can now be purchased. The Board of Supervisors has approved the purchase of a site for the school.

Members of the state education dept. which visited the area were given attendance figures from the Genoa, Runion's Creek, Fulk's Run and West Hopkins Gap and other nearby areas. They agreed with the School board that Fulk's Run was the logical and most convenient location.

FROM THE MINUTES

May 2, 1961 Garnett Turner reported that the contractor expects to have the new school finished by July 15, 1961.

June 6, 1961 The club voted to give \$73.70 to the new elementary school to pay for library books and essential supplies.

Aug. 1, 1961 Garnett Turner, Chairman of the Education Committee, reported that the new Fulks Run Elementary School would be ready for the beginning of the Fall term.

Sept. 5, 1961 The club voted to donate \$1,040.00 to the new Fulks Run Elementary School for needed equipment. The club voted to hold the Oct. meeting in the new Fulks Run school building.

Oct. 3, 1961 The Fulks Run Ruritan Club met in the Fulks Run Elementary School Cafeteria for their regular monthly meeting with Pres. Gerald Custer presiding. The club voted to invite to the Nov. meeting the members of the R'ham County School Board, The Board of Supervisors, and the Teachers of the new Fulks Run Elementary School and their husbands or wives as the case may be.

September 5, 1961

Equipment Needed For Fulks Run Elementary School

1. Duplicator – about \$200.00
 2. Television Stand - \$25.00
 3. Projection Unit -- \$125.00
 4. Special Tables for teaching small groups for grades 1, 2, & 3, and chairs to go with them. \$105.00
 5. Set of World Books, for 7th grade. \$125.00.
 6. 5 sets of maps for \$20.00 each. \$100.00.
 7. 3 World globes at \$15.00 ea. \$45.00
 8. Record Player - \$60.00
 9. Shrubbery - \$75.00
 10. Play Ground Equipment - \$100.00
 11. Miscellaneous - \$80.00
- Total \$1040.00

A list in the 1961 Official Secretary's Book of the equipment the club voted to purchase at its September 5 meeting.

FROM THE MINUTES

Nov. 7, 1961 The monthly meeting of the Fulks Run Ruritan club was held in the Elementary School with President Gerald Custer presiding.

A delicious chicken dinner was served by the Ladies Aid of the Mountain Grove Church of the Brethren.

Ladies Nite was observed with 21 ladies present.

The following guests were introduced to the club members: B.S. McKay, F.L. Zirkle and Gilbert Miller members of the County Board of Supervisors; Carl G. Showalter and Frank R. Coffman members of the Rockingham County School Board, Mrs. Abigail Ritchie elementary supervisor; J. Owen Long visiting teacher in Rockingham County Schools, Rev. J. E. Dettra Pastor of Mountain Grove Church of the Brethren, and Mrs. & Mrs. J.S. Sellers. The teachers of the Fulks Run elementary School were also guests of the club.

Principal Fred L. Denlinger was introduced to the members of the club who in turn introduced the following members of his faculty: Mrs. Mariam Hoover, Mrs. Marie Good, Mrs. Gussie Custer, Mrs. Evelyne Branner, Miss Esther Emswiler and Andrew J. Thomas.

The club celebrated its achievement at the November 7, 1961 meeting.

Paul Wilkins, President	Kermit Custer, Director – 3 years
Harlan Mongold, Vice-President	Delbert Slater, Director – 2 years
Trovillo Miller, Secretary	Ernest Branner, Director – 1 year
Fred Denlinger, Treasurer	B.O. Cooper, Past President
Andrew Thomas, Chaplain	Andrew Thomas, Reporter
Trovillo Miller, Song Leader	Garland Keplinger, Sergeant At Arms

Harrison Fulk, Chairman, Finance Committee. Charles Shoemaker, Nelson Trumbo, Paul Wilkins, Shirley Morris, members.

Lloyd Turner, Chairman, Welfare Committee. Russell Turner, Ernest Branner, Dwight Lantz, Carroll Yankey, members.

Shirley Morris, Chairman, Recreation Committee. Harland Mongold, Paul Wilkins, Trovillo and Robert Miller, William Bare, Robert Mitchell, Carroll Yankey, members.

Delmar Ritchie, Chairman, Youth Committee. Carl Turner, Kermit Hottinger, Maynard Fulk, members.

Harry Trumbo, Chairman, Agriculture Committee. Owen Reedy, Kermit Custer, Ernest Branner, Garnett Turner, Gerald Custer, Carl Turner, members.

Trovillo Miller, Chairman, Rural Church Committee. Robert Miller, William Bare, Jr., B.O. Cooper, members.

B.O. Cooper, Chairman, Rural Utilities Committee. Robert Mitchell, Robert Miller, Garland Keplinger, William Bare, Jr., members.

Maynard Hoover, Chairman, Public Highways Committee. Carroll Yankey, Delbert Slater, Gerald Custer, members.

Garnett Turner, Chairman, Education Committee. Ernest Branner, B.O. Cooper, Nelson Trumbo, Fred Denlinger, members.

Gerald Custer, Chairman, The Home Committee. Maynard Fulk, Orie Mumbert, Owen Reedy, members.

Garnett Turner, Chairman, Program Committee. Carroll Yankey, member.

Dwight Lantz, Chairman, Fellowship Committee. Galen Fulk, Kermit Hottinger, Trovillo Miller, Delbert Slater, Harland Mongold, members.

Charles Crider, Chairman, Special Committee – Physician. Garnett Turner, Dwight Lantz, Garland Keplinger, members.

Roll call, 1963.

FROM THE MINUTES

Jan. 2, 1962 Garnett Turner reported that shrubbery had been planted at the new school.

March 13, 1962 The Education Committee reported that most of the school equipment had been purchased.

September 4, 1962 Garnett Turner, chairman of the education committee reports that the swings and seesaws have been purchased and will soon be erected.

Oct. 1, 1963 The club voted to buy Bibles for the Fulks Run Elementary School to be used in Weekday Religious Education. The Club will retain title to said Bibles, and in case of discontinuance of Week Day Religion Education, the Bibles will be returned to Fulks Run Ruritan Club. Also to buy pull up bar for use in physical education for the school.

February 4, 1964 The board of directors approved to give \$50.00 to the Fulks Run School for slides and equipment.

October 6, 1964 Upon recommendations of the board of directors the club went on record of being in favor of buying a new flag for the School.

September 8, 1965

Rockingham County School Board
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Gentlemen:

We wish to express our appreciation for the very good work you did on the driveway and parking lot at the Fulks Run Elementary School.

We are inclosing a check for \$150.00 as agreed.

Very truly yours,

Fulks Run Ruritan Club
Delbert Slater, Sec.

A letter in the 1965 Official Secretary's Book.

FROM THE MINUTES

Feb. 14, 1967 The club approved: to help buy two tables for the school cafeteria which will be \$90.00, and the club would have use of them at any time.

May 2, 1967 The club approved to pay \$100.00 to help buy a public address system for the Fulks Run Elementary School and the club can use it at any time.

May 7, 1968 The club voted to donate \$290.00 to the Fulks Run School for a new piano which costs \$580.00 for use in the community.

May 6, 1969 The club voted to donate \$647.00 to the school for recreation equipment.

Oct. 6, 1970 The following item of business was passed: That we pay for the pants for the football team of the Fulks Run School at a cost of \$148.75 for 25 pairs of pants.

Feb. 2, 1971 Dale Warner of the Education Committee reported that the school was overcrowded and would like to have a representative of the club attend the school board meeting to help explain the need for more teachers, classrooms, a library, and recreation facilities.

Oct. 5, 1971 Donate \$50.00 to Weekday Religious Education.

Ruritan National Annual Reports

1971 The club sponsored a Santa Claus at the Fulks Run Elementary School at Christmas. Each child was given candy and oranges, at a cost of \$25.00 and 4 man hours. The Club secured the following equipment for the Fulks Run Elementary School: a 10' x 60' section of blacktop was put down as a play area to be used especially in snowy or wet weather when the playground is muddy. There are no indoor facilities at the school so that the addition of this area permits children more days outside the building. This project required 20 man hours from members who helped. A set of basketball goals was placed at the ends of the area. Members placed the goals which required 30 man hours. These two projects cost the club \$500. Club members placed a set of see-saws at the school. This involved 30 man hours. Volleyball net stands were transported from Broadway to the new hardtop area at the school by a member who traveled 20 miles and donated 2 man hours. Members also aided in the hardsurfacing of the driveway area at the school. At the November meeting, 22 school personnel and husbands or wives were entertained by the club.

FROM THE MINUTES

May 2, 1972 Leon Liskey made a motion and was passed by the club to donate \$20.00 to the Fulks Run Elementary School for contest prizes for the students 3rd & 4th grades, the best poster, 5th and 6th grades for best essay. \$5.00 first prizes \$3.00 second prizes and \$2.00 third prize for each.

Nov. 7, 1972 The club entertained the faculty of the Fulks Run Elementary School.

May 1, 1973 Garnett announced that there would be an addition to school this summer.

Sept. 4, 1973 The club voted to send letter in favor of building gymnasium at Fulks Run School.

Jan. 3, 1978 Garnett reported that Santa Claus at the Fulks Run School gave out \$66.60 of fruit.

March 7, 1978 Donate \$300 to Fulks Run Elementary School for instruction material.

June 7, 1988 Motion was passed that the Ruritan Club go on record as opposing the name change of Fulks Run Elementary.

July 28, 1998 Donate up to \$250 for half the materials for a project at Fulks Run Elementary School.

Jan. 7, 2003 Donate \$50 to Fulks Run Elementary to place an ad in the yearbook. The ads will reduce the price of the yearbook to \$5 each. Donate \$750 to Fulks Run Elementary School for [Floor] Buffer.

Sept. 2, 2003 Donate \$475 to Fulks Run Elementary School for Native American Days.

Ruritan National Annual Reports:

1983 Purchased Gym Equip. for F.R. School: \$140; Spons. School Assem. For F.R. School, \$60; Spons. Halloween party, 25 adults, 87 child., 86 hours, \$18; Spons. Santa Claus at School, 2 hours, \$29.50; Spons. essay contest, "Why I'm Proud to Live in America," 30 hours, \$65; Invited Teachers to meeting, \$27.50.

1988 Provided equipment to local school, \$50.74; Spons. Drug Awareness Program at school, \$120; Spons. Essay Contest for 4th and 5th graders, 15 hours, \$90.

1993 Spons. Essay contest with 14 winners, 30 hours, cost \$200; Sponsored 3rd grade class on tour of area business; Member helped install school equipment; Held chicken Bar-B-Que for school, 259 hours, \$1400; Donated equipment for school gym.

2003 Sponsored Phone Book Recycling at Elementary School, 6 hours, \$600.

2006 Donate to elementary School for Musical Instruments, 1 hour, \$500.



The Fulks Run Elementary School nearing completion in 1961.

At the school's 2003 Halloween Party, sponsored annually by the club. The club also sponsors an annual Christmas party complete with Santa Claus, and an Easter egg hunt at the Ruritan Park for all the children of the community.



David Wenger, principal of the Fulks Run Elementary School, stands in the main hallway where Ruritan Club certificates are hung in June, 2008. Wenger joined the club shortly before he took over as principal in July, 2007. "The relationship between the school and the club has always been a supportive one both ways," he said. "We try to meet the club's needs for a meeting and dining space, and the club has met many of our needs. In just the one year that I've been principal, the club has contributed to field trips, the Passport for Summer reading program, our paper and phone book recycling efforts, and the Children in Need fund, as well as holding the annual Halloween and Christmas parties for the school and the Easter egg hunt for all

the community's children."

No sooner was the school completed than it served as a community center for an emerging issue that threatened the very existence of Fulks Run.