

## Chapter 3 Brocks Gap Dam

The idea of building a dam across the narrow gap cut by the North Fork of the Shenandoah River through Shoemaker/Little North Mountain has been around since at least the 1920s. An article in the March 3, 1927 issue of *The Shenandoah Valley* newspaper, published in New Market, reported that “a 9-foot dam would be eventually built in Brock’s Gap to furnish power to the area.” In the early 1940s, when Garnett Turner was a teenager in school, he remembers his father Lloyd and others from Fulks Run going by bus to a Congressional hearing on the Brock’s Gap Dam in Washington, D.C. “They decided on that day,” Garnett says, “not to build the dam.” Such a quick solution would not be the case when the idea resurfaced in the 1960s.

By the late 1950s, as Washington, D.C. sprawled ever larger, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began serious calculations for a series of large dams up the Potomac River watershed west and south of the capital city, including the Shenandoah Valley. In its *Potomac River Basin Report*, the Corps proposed a high dam at Brock’s Gap.

The Army Corps is a massive federal agency dedicated to building huge structures to benefit large industries. Water in the lake resulting from a dam in Brock’s Gap would, according to the Corps proposal, be drawn down as needed to dilute the polluted discharges from industries downstream and to help flush out sewage and other pollutants that were increasingly fouling the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. Drinking water, flood control and recreation were also claimed as benefits. The Brock’s Gap Dam was one of the largest of several dozen dams planned throughout the region.

Already by the August 5, 1958 club meeting, dams were a topic of interest as Dwight Lantz gave a report on land conservation and flood control and said there might be as many as 30 or 35 dams built.



Brocks Gap, seen here from Buckhorn Drive on the west side with Chimney Rock on the left, is a defining landmark for Fulks Run. One of the arguments against the proposed dam was loss of the natural beauty of the North Fork and Shoemaker Rivers, with their cliffs and pools, and the long-term disruption or total loss of prime fishing and hunting opportunities.

The Hon. Burr P. Harrison  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

May 4, 1961

Dear Mr. Harrison:

A Mr. George Collins, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., was here last week and said that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contemplate building the high dam at Brocks Gap, at Broadway, Virginia. He contends that Congress will be asked to appropriate the necessary funds in July 1962.

The people in this community are very much opposed to a high structure of this nature as the body of water would cover our homes, schools, and churches.

We appreciate any information you may have or can get on the proposed Brocks Gap Dam. If you find this proposed dam is to come before Congress in July 1962, we shall appreciate you informing us and any suggestions on ways to oppose it.

Trusting we may hear from you in the future, I remain,

Very truly yours,  
[Dwight Lantz]  
Fulks Run Ruritan Club  
Secretary

Committee On Ways and Means  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

May 8, 1961

Mr. Dwight Lantz  
Fulks Run, Virginia

Dear Mr. Lantz:

Thank you for your letter of May 4 in regard to a proposal of the Army Engineers to build a high dam in Brocks Gap. As you know, this scheme has been kicking around for years. At the moment, the situation is like this:

1. The Army Engineers tell me that Mr. Collins was on a fact-finding excursion. This does not mean that the Army Engineers are going to recommend the dam again.
2. There will be a public hearing on possible Army Engineer recommendations in November or December, and all local organizations will have an opportunity to testify. (I will make every effort to keep you informed about these hearings.)
3. The formal recommendations of the Army Engineers to Congress will not be made until next year.
4. Needless to say, when the recommendations are made, I will study them very carefully in the light of what the people want.

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In general, I have been inclined to support the water conservation and flood control plans of the Soil Conservation Service through smaller upstream dams. Undoubtedly, we are going to come up against an increasing problem of adequate water supply in the Valley, and I think we must be prepared, in opposing specific schemes, to show that alternate plans will provide for local needs at lower cost and less damage to our communities. Please be assured of my desire to cooperate with you in every practicable way on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Burr P. Harrison

At the December 5, 1961 club meeting, members voted unanimously to go on record as opposing the dam. In May of 1962, the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors also voted unanimously against the proposed Brocks Gap Dam, but the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce rebuked them in a letter in August for acting “in the interests of a vocal minority without giving full consideration to the residents and business establishments of the entire county.”

Over the next few years, the club worked closely with Herman B. Turner, a Fulks Run native and owner of Turner Electric Company in Timberville, who organized an opposition group named the Citizens Council Association to fight the dam. The Ruritan Club contributed toward his expenses.

## MEMORIES

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

*The dam was to be more than 800 feet long and to run from one mountain to the other one at Brocks Gap. The lake would cover 2,800 acres and the water would back three miles up Runions Creek and up State Route 259 to the old Riverside Church.*

*The citizens of the Brocks Gap area did not want to see this dam built. They did not want to relocate. The government would have paid the appraised value of the land but nothing for the hardship and trouble of finding a new home. The local people met at the Fulks Run Elementary School and formed an opposition group and elected Herman Turner as president and Lloyd Turner, my dad and a charter member of the Fulks Run Ruritans, as Treasurer.*

*On September 4, 1963, a public meeting on the proposed dams was held in Washington, D.C. with the Corps of Engineers and a Congressional Committee. The Fulks Run group chartered five Greyhound buses to take the local protesters to the meeting. We had nearly 200 local people who paid the \$5.00 bus fare to go. Herman Turner presented our case to the Congressman as well as our County Supervisor, B.S. McKay. Apparently we did a good job as the dam was not built.*

*We continued working on the soil conservation dams and did get three of those installed on Shoemaker River. Those were for flood control and are working well. No one was displaced in this construction. Of the 15 large dams proposed in 1962, only one was built which was at Bloomington,*

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*Maryland. The Corps said if these 15 dams were built this would serve the water needs for the next 50 years. Forty-seven years have passed since the proposal. Since only one has been built and we still have an adequate supply of water for Washington, it seems that the Corps was mistaken in its calculations.*

*The Shenandoah Valley [published in New Market]*

*May 2, 1963*

## **Army Engineers Visualize Brock's Gap Dam Start by 1969; Completion by 1973**

A release by the U.S. Army Engineers relative to the building of 187 large and small dams to help meet the needs of water supply, water control, flood control, and recreation through the Potomac River Basin indicates that the high dam at Brock's Gap will be completed by 1973. It is suggested that construction should start in 1969.

The dam will be of earth construction, 860 feet long (will have two 6x11 outlet control gates). The top of the dam will be 147 feet above the stream bed. The full conservation pool (for water supply, water quality control and recreation uses) would extend upstream for a distance of five miles. It would have a surface area of 2,810 acres and a 26-mile shoreline. The total capacity of the reservoir would be 61 billion gallons of water.

The news release points out the following features of the project: "When operated in conjunction with 15 headwater reservoirs this project will serve the water resources needs of the North Fork of the Shenandoah for the next 50 years. It would supply water in the Broadway-Timberville area and in the Metropolitan Area of Washington, D.C.; it will provide industrial cooling water in the lower Shenandoah and in the Metropolitan Area; it will preserve the water quality in the North Fork; and, in conjunction with the Staunton project and the many small headwater reservoirs, it will preserve the water quality in the lower Shenandoah River.

"Some periodic flood damages immediately downstream would be reduced when reservoir is operated for other purposes.

### **Recreation, Fish and Wildlife**

"Present recreational use of the general reservoir area is estimated at 20,000 visitors annually. Basic recreation facilities at the completed project would include five camping areas, a large day-use area, and boating, swimming, access and administration areas which should attract an estimated 200,000 visitors each year and increase the ultimate visitations to 560,000 annually within 50 years. In an average year the reservoir would be drawn down gradually about six feet during the May-September recreation season.

"The current 6,800 fisherman-days of stream fishing should increase to 58,700 with opportunities for tailwater fishing. The purchase of 2,380 acres of land away from the project for wildlife management by the State of Virginia would compensate for the loss of some hunting areas.

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**Alternatives to Brocks Gap Reservoir**

“No other major structures can provide the same flow for the North Fork area. Development of headwater reservoirs would cost one-third more and could furnish only two-thirds of the flow provided by the Brocks Gap Reservoir. If this project is not constructed the North Fork of the Shenandoah will greatly deteriorate and the future economic development of the area will be impaired.”

The location of the dam would block traffic through existing roads into the Brock’s Gap area, as presently arranged, so that Virginia State Route 259 would be relocated around the south side of the reservoir, and 1.6 miles of Virginia State Route 610 and 0.9 miles of Virginia State Route 612 would be reconstructed.

The project would cost \$16,437,000, of which sum the Federal Government would pay \$15,649,500 and non-federal sources would invest \$787,500.

Form A-132

**SOUTHERN GREYHOUND LINES**  
P.O. BOX 297  
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INVOICE  
No GGO-74363

Mr. Garnett Turner  
Fulks Run, Virginia

Month's Account Sept.  
Date of Charter 9-4-63  
Date Issued 9-17-63

To be collected and reported by the Agent at Harrisonburg, Va. Mr. G. E. Keister

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT BILLED
<b>TO BILL YOU FOR CHARTER COACH SERVICE AS FOLLOWS:</b>	
FROM <u>Fulks Run, Shenandoah, Va.</u> TO <u>Washington, D. C.</u> <input type="checkbox"/> One-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Round Trip	
<u>5</u> buses of <u>37</u> pass. cap. = <u>1835</u> Live Miles at <u>35</u> ¢ per mile . . . \$ <u>646.50</u>	
..... buses of ..... pass. cap. = ..... Live Miles at .....¢ per mile . . . \$ .....	
..... buses of ..... pass. cap. = <u>220</u> Deadhead Miles at <u>35</u> ¢ per mile . . . \$ <u>77.00</u>	
..... buses of ..... pass. cap. = ..... Deadhead Miles at .....¢ per mile . . . \$ .....	
TIME CHARGES: ..... hours at \$..... per hour . . . . . \$ .....	
MINIMUM CHARGE . . . . . \$ .....	
OTHER CHARGES: (Specify) .....	\$ .....
FEDERAL TAX: (.....% of \$.....) . . . . . \$ .....	
STATE TAX: (.....% of \$.....) . . . . . \$ .....	
TOLLS, etc. (Explain) .....	\$ .....
TOTAL CHARGE . . . . . \$ <u>753.50</u>	\$753.50

*paid check*  
9-25-63

PLEASE RETURN YELLOW COPY WITH REMITTANCE

In September of 1963, with his father’s actions as a precedent, Garnett Turner organized a trip to Washington, D.C. to testify at a hearing held by the Board of Engineers. One hundred and eighty-five people from Fulks Run packed five buses chartered from Southern Greyhound Lines in Lexington, Kentucky.

Herman Turner was the spokesman for the Fulks Run delegation to the Congressional Committee hearing. In his 1998 book on local history, *The Turner Mill*, he included the text of his remarks that day, in which he rebutted the Army Corps' proposal point by point, uncovering many errors and omissions. He mentioned that almost every family that would be displaced had roots in the Gap going back nearly 200 years, and made it clear that these families did not accept the Corps' assessment:

“It is stated that a closely knit farm community would have to be relocated. We would like to know where the Corps of Engineers propose to relocate this community, and how this will be done, we suppose they will have to take it from others to do this. Would this be right and just?”

“The Report states that about 120 families would actually have to move. According to Plate No. 11, Volume 8 of the Report, an actual count of the residences located within the suggested acquisition line, the total of 312 families would be forced to move. We are submitting the names of the residents and would like for someone else to verify this figure, if they desire to do so. It seems to us, that perhaps, the Corps of Engineers does not have the time, money, or personnel to make the survey on the families involved in this Project, that they did not consider this matter as being important.

“We then would ask if the cost of this project of eighteen million dollars is based on 120 families having to move, what would the cost be if the true figure of 312 families would have to relocate or move?”

“In the Report, Volume 2, Page 76 continued ‘Two churches would have to relocate.’ From this we can plainly conclude only one thing, that is, that the Corps of Engineers were careless in making their studies. There are seven churches that will have to be closed, namely: Bethel Mennonite, Cootes Store E.U.B., Fulks Run Pentecostal, Fulks Run Baptist, Mt. Grove Church of the Brethren, Mt. Carmel E.U.B., Mt. Hebron Mennonite. In addition to the closing of these churches, the following churches will be split: Runion's Creek Baptist, Riverside E.U.B., Gospel Hill Mennonite.

“We do not appreciate the methods used by the Corps of Engineers in making their studies, due to the fact that they are using our tax money and are using unfair and unjust methods, we believe, in compiling information contained in the Report.

“All that is promised in this project is an 80 acre mud hole or minimum pool.

“The North Fork of the Shenandoah River offers one of the finest opportunities to develop headwater impoundments which will furnish an abundance of clean, fresh, unpolluted water without the building of a high dam at Brocks Gap. Small headwater reservoirs located at various points over the Valley area will offer a better balanced economy and provide for greater and better recreation facilities than a large single impoundment. Some of the headwaters sites recommended are located on the National Forest Land.”

The next year, the controversy was still simmering, and the club wrote another letter:

May 18, 1964

My dear Governor Harrison:

Reference is made to the Corps of Engineers' report on the Potomac River Basin report concerning the proposed Brocks Gap Dam.

The residents of Brocks Gap do not want this dam for the following reasons:

1. Over three hundred families would be dislocated.
2. We love our community and do not wish to move out.
3. We have strong reservations that we would not be justly compensated for our property.
4. The large dam would create a depressed area for the Broadway-Timberville area due to the loss of the dislocated workers from the Brocks Gap area and the area back of it. Rockingham County would lose a large number of the working class people and business trade from the nearby Mathias, West Virginia area – due to the Brocks Gap Dam creating an artificial barrier which would be a mountain to cross and ten miles of extra driving in order to get to Broadway or Harrisonburg, Virginia, to trade. (A large number of people from West Virginia work in the West Rockingham area and most all the residents from Baker, West Virginia, south, trade in Rockingham County.) The people in West Virginia area would go west for work and trade due to this increased travel and the proposed artificial barrier.
5. The Brocks Gap Dam is not needed. The Engineers claim that the Brocks Gap Dam will provide 148 Cubic Feet a second which is the amount they claim will be needed in the next fifty years – assuming that the present rate of growth continues.

The Soil Conservation Service has made a study of headwater dams in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers study. These smaller headwater dams can be made with controlled low flow augmentation and will provide a dependable flow of 100 CFS. Taking into consideration that the increment of growth will be greater in the years nearer to the fifty year period, then the 100 CFS of the Soil Conservation Service dams will provide all the water needed for forty – forty-five years. At the end of that period new technological techniques and development will provide a new and better way to conserve water.

The Engineers state that the basic purpose of the Brocks Gap Dam is for water supply, low flow augmentation and recreation. They state on Page 95, Volume I, Table 20, that the waste load of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River at Timberville is the equivalent of the raw sewage of 14,700 people. If this is true, why does this situation exist? When the water leaves Brocks Gap, it is pure and clean. Who puts this waste

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load equivalent of 14,700 into the river? Why are not the existing laws enforced by the State Water Control Board?

As for recreation, a group of Soil Conservation Service dams will provide a higher type recreation than a high dam at Brocks Gap. Some of the smaller Soil Conservation Service lakes could be stocked with fish while some of the larger ones could be used for motor boats. One type of recreation would not interfere with the other – as is the case of one large lake.

With these points in mind, we hope you will reject the plan of the Engineers to build a high dam at Brocks Gap, but will give careful consideration to the Soil Conservation Service type dams.

Sincerely yours,

FULKS RUN RURITAN CLUB  
Robert D. Miller,  
Secretary

cc: General E.W. Opie  
Mayor Frank Switzer  
Mr. Kenneth Robinson  
Mr. E. W. Lauck  
Congressman Jack O. Marsh  
Senator George S. Aldhizer II  
Delegate Charles W. Wampler

## **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Dec. 5, 1961 Motion was made by Carroll Yankey that the club go on record as opposed to the proposed Brocks Gap Dam. Motion was unanimously carried.

April 3, 1962 Garnett Turner presented a resolution opposed to the Brock's Gap Dam. It was accepted 100% by the Club.

Oct. 1, 1963 The club voted on and approved the following: To give Herman Turner \$50.00 on his expenses for his work against the proposed Brocks Gap Dam.

Feb. 2, 1965 The club voted to pay up to \$200 for survey on Turner Run Dam site.

May 4, 1965 Program Chairman Garnett Turner introduced Dr. Ernest Gehman from Eastern Mennonite College. Dr. Gehman showed slides and gave a detailed report on river developments in Germany stating that this plan could be used on the Potomac

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River basin to replace high dams proposed by Army engineers. A 20 page brochure with pictures, facts and figures is being printed and will be given to people interested in this plan. The club voted to pay \$100.00 to Broadway-Timberville Chamber of Commerce to help pay for printing these books.

June 1, 1965 Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Howard Zigler. He thanked the club for helping pay for printing of brochures on river development. He gave a talk on Brocks Gap Dam and outlined steps to take to oppose building of dam.

August 3, 1965 The club voted to go on record favoring Dr. Gehman's channel dam plan. Garnett Turner made motion that club help promote building of these dams. Motion seconded and voted on and passed by club.

Sept. 7, 1965 A special committee to work with Bergton on recreation dams was elected. Maynard Hoover, Garnett Turner and Gerald Custer make up the committee.

June 7, 1966 Club voted to give \$25.00 to small Dam committee.

Aug. 2, 1966 The Club voted to send a letter to the Forest Service urging them to purchase land in Slate Lick Branch for a recreation site.

January 2, 1968 Garnett Turner reported that easements were signed for 3 small dams on private land by landowners on Shoemaker river area.

April 2, 1968 Garnett reported that the committee was working hard on the small dam program. He said there would be a meeting at the school April 18 for the public to attend.

William Bare, Jr.	Robert Lam	Delbert Slater, Pres.
Nelson Billheimer	Leon Liskey	Linden Sonifrank
Ernest Branner	Carroll Miller	Nelson Trumbo
Branson Conley, Jr.	Delmas Miller, V.P.	Harry Trumbo
Richard Cooper	Owen Miller	Garnett Turner
Charles Crider	Paul Miller	Lloyd Turner
Barry Custer	Russell Miller	Dale Warner
Gerald Custer	Trovillo Miller	Stanley Whetzel
Kermit Custer	Robert Mitchell	Paul Wilkins
Fred Dove (Honorary)	Harlan Mongold	Carroll Yankey, Sec'y.
Galen Fulk	Shirley Morris	Harold Yankey
Harrison Fulk	Orie Mumbert	Vance Miller
Maynard Fulk	Garland Reedy	Miles Turner
David Hoover	Owen Reedy	C.T. Yankey
Maynard Hoover	Charles Shoemaker	James Dodd
Kermit Hottinger		

Roll call of club members in the 1968 Official Secretary's Book, with the last three names added in December as new members.

## Brock's Gap Dam Program To Be Discussed Thursday

The status of a proposed small dam program in Brock's Gap will be discussed at a meeting 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Fulks Run School. The meeting has been called by the Citizens' Permanent Conference on the Potomac River Basin, with headquarters in Washington, and the Upper North Fork Watershed Association of Plains district.

Eight Soil Conservation Service dams have been tentatively approved for the Brocks Gap area by the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District. Support for these earthen structures was revived in the past year when the Corps of Engineers announced withdrawal of the Cootes Store high dam from the Potomac Basin program.

The status of the Brocks Gap dams will be discussed Thursday by Edward W. Remington of Washington, executive secretary of the Citizens' Conference; J.K. Abernathy of Richmond, assistant chief state conservationist for watersheds in Virginia; W.L. Blair, Shenandoah Valley district conservationist, and D.J. Caderstrom, senior hydrologist of the Department of Interior.

L.P. Fitzwater Jr. of Broadway, a leader in the Upper North Fork watershed group, said an invitation is extended to all public officials of Rockingham County as well as those residing in the Brocks Gap area. When eight SCS dams were given tentative approval last November, Carl Lively, Rockingham County SCS conservationist, reported that four other proposed dams could not be justified from the benefits standpoint.

Mr. Fitzwater and his associates from the Bergton and Fulks Run Ruritan clubs were asked to determine if easement can be obtained for the structures. Mr. Fitzwater reported then that some landowners are anxious to cooperate.

The tentative locations of the dams for flood control, water storage and recreation were outlined as follows: Shoemaker River, Long Run, Slate Lick, Buck Lick, German River, Overly Run, Bennett's Run and Crab Run. The estimated cost from SCS funds is over \$2 million. Some dams would cost nearly \$1 million. Mr. Lively will probably inform the Thursday group of how much financing is available for the program when all plans are completed.

## Three Dams In Brocks Gap Expected To Be Approved

By J.R. Lineweaver, News-Record Staff Writer

FULKS RUN – Three proposed Soil Conservation Service Dams in the Brocks Gap area appear likely to pass all tests and probably will be the first built in this northwestern Rockingham area. SCS officials and engineers gave their opinion to a gathering in the Fulks Run school building Thursday night. The meeting was called by L. P. Fitzwater Jr. of Broadway, president of Upper North Fork Watershed Association, to determine the status of the SCS studies. The dams which seem likely to meet SCS requirements for justifying expenditures are on the Shoemaker River near here and two of its tributaries, Long Run and Slate Lick Run.

W. L. Blair of the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Jack Gibson, chief of a SCS watershed planning party, said the studies and plans will require two years.

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Dam construction will take another three years to build. J.K. Abernathy of Richmond, state watershed conservationist, reported funds will be available for these projects.

The Fulks Run Ruritan Club, headed by Garnett Turner, has helped obtain easements from landowners, Mr. Fitzwater reported.

The crowd of 75 also was told that the Germany River near Bergton might qualify as a dam site. Dams on three tributaries, Crab Run, Bennett's Run and Overly Run, would be eliminated. Another proposed dam study, on Little Dry River, was not pursued because of opposition by landowners. Woodrow Brown, who headed the Bergton Ruritan Club dam committee, in response to a question, said that his group had not pursued the obtaining of easements after they ran into opposition.

### **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**March 2, 1971** Support changing of watershed project from trout stream to recreation stream.

**April 6, 1971** Sponsor year-round trout fishing and raise license to \$2.00.

**May 4, 1971** Send representatives to State Water Control Board in Richmond, June 10, concerning the Shoemaker River watershed project.

### NOTICE OF HEARING

The State Water Control Board will convene a public hearing at 10:00 a.m., June 10, 1971, in the State Water Control Board's Meeting Room, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, for the purpose of receiving testimony relative to a request from the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District that the Board reclassify the Shoemaker River, Slate Lick Run (Branch), and Long Run from natural trout waters to recreational waters. Such reclassification would involve the alteration of the standards for dissolved oxygen from a minimum of 6 mg-1 and an average of 7 mg-1 to a minimum of 4 mg-1 and an average of 5 mg-1, and the alteration of the temperature standard from a maximum of 70 degrees F to a maximum of 87 degrees F with a maximum allowable rise of 5 degrees F above natural temperature.

Anyone wishing to testify is requested to make his presentation and originals of any exhibits available for entering into the hearing record.

A news clipping in the 1971 file.

Fulks Run, Virginia 22830

May 1, 1971

This statement is for presentation at the public hearing on June 10, in Richmond, Va. to the State Water Control Board, concerning the request of the Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District to change the classification of the Shoemaker River from trout stream to Recreation stream, and the proposed Soil Conservation dams on Shoemaker River and its tributaries.

#### STATEMENT

We request changing the classification of the Shoemaker River from a trout stream to Recreation stream. By changing the classification from trout stream to recreation stream, it would not lower the standards of this stream due to the fact that the stream dries up in the summer time. From a practical standpoint, the classification is meaningless.

The flood reservoirs project would make the National Forests more accessible and more attractive to the public. The flood control structures would increase the underground streams and raise the ground level water table for the benefit of the local population. We understand that the reservoirs are providing for the release of cold water from lower depths.

Some of our members are riparian owners on Shoemaker River and we believe our property values will be enhanced and upgraded with the building of the flood control structures. We believe flood control structure should be constructed. We have seen them operate in other areas and know their benefits. We should have the benefit of them in our area.

The State and County governments have a primary obligation for the upgrading and improving of the local community. We believe the flood control structures will do this. We hope you will give this proposal proper consideration.

Fulks Run Ruritan Club

#### **Ruritan National Annual Report**

**1971** Three members attended a meeting in Richmond with the Water Control Board in order to have Shoemaker River classified as a recreation stream instead of a trout stream. This has to be done before three small flood control dams can be built on the river. This trip involved 31 man hours and 360 miles travel.

One small dam was built on private land along the Shoemaker River (called Lagoaha Lake); and two on its tributaries, Slate Lick Run and Hog Pen Run, in the George Washington National Forest. If a Brocks Gap Dam were to be considered today, the costs of relocation would be multiplied many times over the 1963 estimate due to the development of residences, businesses and poultry farms in the area since that time.