

Gammels Brevve for 1936

1. Altshta: P J Buller
 " " P J Gaede
 Diakona J. Voth
 " " Wm Sucket
 " " Dave Rub
 " " Jacob Berg

Deakonissen Sr Sucket
 " " J. Richart
 " " P Durksen
 " " J Baerg
 Clerk " D. Strauss

Schatzmeister J. C. Thomas

Gammels missionsleiter C. C. Durksen
 " " Schreiber J. F. Richart
 Gafellps " Sr. Ezra Heinze
 Gasangleiter " J. F. Richert
 Organistin " Sr Irene Neuman
 " " Sr Arthur Durksen
 Usher Br. Willerd Neuman
 " " Arthur Durksen
 " " Conrad Ebel
 " " Theo. Voth

Although these pages appear last in Shafter Book 2, I suspect, without evidence, they were written during December of 1935, following their past practice of starting a new year with new officers. This is the last year recorded in the Book 2. The change from German to English, and the success of their Adventist school, surely marked a bitter sweet time for the founders of the Shafter German church. -md

Adventist Academy Lists 100 Students

SHAFTER, March 15.—Professor C. O. Trubey, principal of the Seventh-Day Adventist grade school and academy, two miles west of town, says that there are 100 students registered in the institution at this time, with six teachers.

The Adventist school at Shafter is one of four in central California that offer school work from the first grade through the twelfth. The other three are located at Fresno, Mountain View, and Oakland. There are several that offer intermediate work.

Kern Academy, as the school at Shafter is called, is under the supervision of the Adventist conference and educational department.

A health demonstration dinner was served at the Woman's clubhouse to members and friends of the Adventist church Tuesday evening.

church officers for 1936

1 Elders: P J Buller
 " P J Gaede
 Deacons J. Voth
 " Wm Sucket
 Dave Rub
 Jacob Berg

Deacons (female) Sr Sucket

" J. Richart
 " P Durksen
 " J Baerg
 " D. Strauss

Clerk

Treasurer J. C. Thomas

church mission leader C. C. Durksen
 " " secretary J. F. Richart
 Assistant " Sr. Ezra Heinze
 Song leader J. F. Richert
 Organist Sr Irene Neuman
 " Sr Arthur Durksen
 Usher Br Willerd Neuman
 " Arthur Durksen
 " Conrad Ebel
 " Theo Voth

Clipping from a 1934 Bakersfield Californian.

im März kam Br. Haynes, im Juli
 2 noch weitere Konferenzen, mit der
 Jungm., so sein Ruf für die Eltern wird
 geben fünf Ruf gemacht dem Herrn Haus
 zu ihnen. 3 liebe Töchter geben fünf zu
 Gott bekannt in dem dritten April werden
 für Getauft. Alvin Buller Gordon Thom
 Sr Paul Richard. Mrs D. Strauss

am Abend den 9ten April im Schulhaus

Br Liskey May

Br Winland June 20 + 24

Br Ford in July,
 Missionary July 29 Br Maot.

am 12ten August kam der G. O. F.
 zu kommen in folgenden beauftragt
 werden Hauptamtlich im Haus für
 Töchter v. Funk zu kaufen,
 geben mir Community kommt man
 3 Brüder Br P. Buller Br J. Ratzlaff
 in Br J. Spork, im Haus zu kaufen
 für D. F. Funk, welches Hauptamtlich
 in ist Ruf für den von Ort in Shafter, Mrs Strauss

In March Br Haynes came and held serious meetings for 2 weeks with the youth as well as for the parents. Many have started to serve the Lord more loyally. 3 dear souls have converted to God, and on the third of April they were baptized. Alvin Buller, Gorden Thom, Sr Paul Richard.

Mrs. D. Strauss

In the evening, the 9th of April in the school house

Br Liskey(?) May

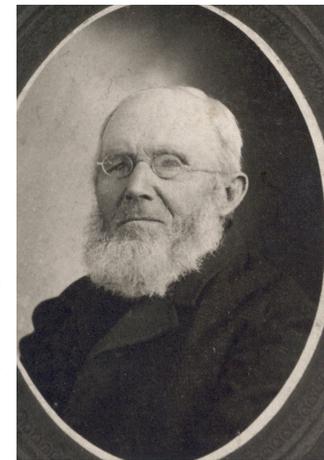
Br Winland June 20 + 24

Br Ford in July,
 Missionary July 29 Br Maot(?).

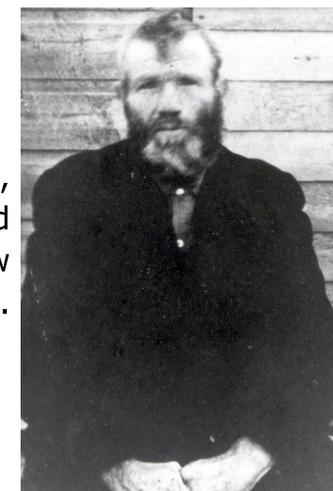
On the 12th of August, S., the church committee met in order to buy a house for S(ister). S(arah). Funk.* A committee was named of 3 brothers Br P. Buller Br J. Ratzlaff and Br J Isaak, to buy a house for S. S. Funk, which was done and is already in place. Mrs. Strauss

(*This sentence is partially crossed out.)

Sarah Funk's mother and four siblings died of disease between 1886 and 1900. Her father's second wife, Mary Fast, was one of six sisters living in Shafter in the 1930s.



Sara Funk's grandfather Heinrich Funk was one of the first Mennonite immigrants.



Sarah Funk's, father David died in New Home, 1924.

THE FAST SISTERS - SHAFTER, CA. Photo belongs to Joyce Pitts.

Standing: Ida Voth (1882-1951) Annie unruh (1877 -1948) Justina Heinrichs (1872-1945)
 Seated: Mary Funk (1867-1936) Lena West (1865-1947) Maggie Dirksen (1874-1944)

beruht nun die Sitzung vom 3 Sept, 1936
 durch ein schriftl. Gebat von Br. J. Isak
 werden das hier ein Gebat in unser
 mitte zu kommen & in uns schriftl.
 gefordert werden muss zu werden und
 Richten, das nicht glücken sein sein
 sein ein schriftl. wafften Arbeiter
 kommen in das Harvest Ingathering,
 und werden beschaffen werden so zu
 Arbeiter sein Licht der, das Jahr
 V. V. Lufon der band leader ist, das
 zint nun die Conference werden
 zusammen 1000

beschlossen das Br. J. Riefel der
 gefordert sein soll für die Seniors
 ein fünf für Harvest Ingathering
 10 Soliceters werden nun
 J. Berg, Sr P. J. Heinze, Sr Sucket, Sr J. Thom
 Sr. Billoff, Sr. Elbert Buller, Sr P. Gade
 Sr Clarence Friesen Sr Clara Heinrich
 Sr D. Strauss,
 wafften werden ein Comitee nun
 sein ein Br. P. J. Buller, Br Esra Schneider
 Br Barling, Br C. C. Durksen, Br D. Rub
 ein werden beschaffen sollen

Report of the meeting on Sept. 3, 1936

With a solemn prayer by Br. J Isak the Lord was asked to come in our midst and to give us wisdom to do everything well and right. At first we planned how best we could work for success in the harvest ingathering, and it was decided to work again like last year, that every S. S. teacher is the band leader. The goal of the conference was accepted, namely 1000. Voted that Br J Richert shall be the conference leader for the seniors with the singing for the Harvest Ingathering. 10 soliceters were named. S J Berg, Sr P J Heinze, Sr Sucket, Sr J Thom, Sr Billoff,

Sr. Elbert Buller, Sr. P. Gade, Sr Clarence Friesen, Sr Clara Heinrich, Sr D. Strauss. Next, a committee was named to look for a heating stove for the church. Br P. J. Buller, Br Esra Schneider, Br Barling,

Br C C Durksen, Br. D. Rub. It was also decided that parents (continued)

No.	MEMBERSHIP. NAMES	Record Page	RECEIVED - HOW AND WHEN.		DISMISSED - HOW AND WHEN.				
			BY BAPTISM	BY LETTER	WHEN.	BY VOTE	Record Page	BY LETTER	BY DEATH
250	Miss Oletta Spady			Jan 18 1936					
251	Mr. Mawer			" "					
252	Mr. Wilton Estey			Feb 8 1936					
253	Mr. Alvin Buller		April 9 1936	Aug 11 1936					
254	Mr. Jordan Thom		" "						
255	Mrs. ^{Bill} Richard		" "						
256	Ethyl Sucket						June 6 1936		
257	Jahn Schapanska								Jan 2 1938
258	Miss Mahle Sucket		✓	June 20 1936					
259	Isaac Wigant		June 20 1936	June 27 1936					
260	Emely Wigant						June 6 1936		
261	Harold Wall			Oct 3 1936					
262	W. F. Starg			Nov 7 1936					
263	Mrs. Starg			Nov 7 1936					
	Louise Bahn			Dec 19 1936					
	Viola Ablender			Dec 19 1936					

Die kleinen Kinder in der Schule fordern,
 zu sehen ob sie vielleicht helfen könnten
 für solche Kinder wenn die Eltern zu dem
 nicht wollen zu bezahlen, mit Gottes Segen
 Mrs D. Strauss Clerk

berichtet vom 24^{ten} Oct 1936 dass die Kirche abends
 eine Versammlung für das Gemeindegeld, um die
 Kirche zu befestigen. Br J. Spork leitete im Gottesdienst
 und wurde beschlossen 1.50 für Mission
 Paper Holder zu kaufen, darum wurde beschlossen
 das Wasser zur Kirche zu leiten in ein drinking
 fountain zu machen was möglich,
 darum wurde beschlossen ob das Gemeindegeld
 noch zu kaufen und ein Furnace in der Kirche
 stellen, es wurde das Gemeindegeld
 am Mittwoch den 30^{ten} Oct vor der Kirche in
 der Versammlung das wir die Furnace kaufen,
 das sollte Martha Esther Clarence Voth
 für unsere Harvest ingathering,
 geben es Clarence 5.00 Es, Martha
 Paid Laverne 1.00, mit Gottes Segen
 Mrs Strauss

(continued)

who have small children in the school, if they could perhaps help and pay for such children whose parents are too poor to pay for everything. With prayer we left.

Mrs. D. Strauss, Clerk

Report from Oct 24, 1936. This evening the church committee met on S. in order to solidify numerous things. Br J Isaak led in prayer. The first thing, it was decided to buy \$1.50 for mission holder paper; then it was decided that water should be led to the church and possibly to create a drinking fountain.

Further it was decided to put it in front of the community and to set up a furnace in the church. It was put in front of the community for a vote on Sabbath, the 30th Oct, (Friday in 1936! -md) and it was voted that we buy the furnace. I was to see Martha Esther Clarence Voth on account of harvest ingathering. I did so. Clarence 5.00 Es.(?) Martha paid. Laverne 1.00. With prayer we were dismissed.

No.	MEMBERSHIP NAMES	Record Page	RECEIVED - HOW AND WHEN.		DISMISSED - HOW AND WHEN.			
			BY BAPTISM	BY LETTER	BY VOTE	Record Page	BY LETTER	BY DEATH
250	Miss Aletha Spady			Jan 18 1936				
251	Mr Warner							
252	Mr Wilton Estey			Feb 8 1936				
253	Mr Alvin Butler		April 4 1936					
254	Mr Gordon Thom		"					
255	Mrs ^{Bill} Richard		"					
256	Ethyl Sucket					June 6 1936		
257	Jahn Schapanska							Jan 2 1938
258	Miss Malde Sucket		✓	June 20 1936				
259	Israel Wigant		June 20 1936	June 27 1936				
260	Emilyn Wigant					June 6 1936		
261	Harold Wall			Oct 3 1936				
262	W. F. Starz			Nov 7 1936				
263	Mrs Starz			Nov 7 1936				
	Laverne Bahr			Nov 19 1936				
	Viola Oberlander			Dec 19 1936				

beruift am 23^{ten} Oct, 1936. Br J Riefert
 hat in der letzten Sitzung des
 zu nicht nur die in der Sitzung
 wurde die Kommission für das Jahr 1937
 müssen, es wurde abgestimmt das 9
 in der Sitzung in dem Fall. Die Namen
 sind wie folgt.

- Br J Isak als Vorsitzender.
- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Br J J Voth | Sr Elmer Billoff |
| Br D. Rieb | Sr Jacob Berg |
| Br J. Kurtz | Sr Albert Buller |
| Br Sam Oblander | |
| Br J. Riefert | |

zu weißt werden die Brüder wurden
 und die Kartierung dafür fallen für die
 Gebete werden weiter

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Br P J Buller | 5 Br J. Isaac |
| 2 Br J. C. Thomas | 6 Br J. Berg |
| 3 Br C C Durksen | 7 Br J. C. Thomas |
| 4 Br J J Richart | 8 Br P J Buller |

zu weißt werden befliegen der folgenden
 Familien sind fallen befliegen werden
 La Verne Heinze Arman Jansen
 Arnold Neufeld Rudolph Nightengal
 Helen Darget Salomon Sinners
 John Schapanske, Abe Toews
 Dan Toews & Veanna Toews
 Clarence Voth

Report from the 23rd of Oct, 1936. Br J Richert prayed for God's
 guidance in this meeting. First an appointment committee was named, who
 would want to be the officers for the year 1937. It was voted that 9
 siblings(church members?) should serve on the committee. The names are
 as follows:

- Br J Isaak as chairman
Br J J Voth Sr Elmer Billoff
Br D. Rueb Sr Jacob Berg
Br J. Kurtz Sr Albert Buller
Br Sam Oblander
 Br J. Richert

At first the brothers were named who are to read lectures for the prayer
 week first lecture

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Br P J Buller | 5 Br J. Isaac |
| 2 Br J. C. Thomas | 6 Br J Berg |
| 3 Br C C Durksen | 7 Br J. C. Thomas |
| 4 Br J I Richart | 8 Br P J Buller |

First it was decided that the following church members should be visited:
La Verne Heinze, Arman(?) Jansen, Arnold Neufeld, Rudolph Nightengal,
Helen Darget, Salomon Sinners, John Schapanske, Abe Toews,
Dan Toews + Veanna Toews, Clarence Voth



The little boy in this
 1900 photo, with his
 family in Oklahoma,
 is the father of
 Shafter's Helen Irene
 Oblander Dargratz
 1900-2001.

The Oblander family homestead in the Panhandle. Pictured from right:
 Alex, Emanuel, Anna, Hulda, Great-grandmother, Sam and Great-grand-
 father Oblander. Anna became John Harder's wife.

an Eva Kimbrell in Martha Junzoles sollten
 auf Besuchen mit Mrs Marie Nightengale fallen. In
 der J. Isak sollte Kattie Peters beauftragt werden.
 in nach Anna P. Voth sollte beauftragt werden. In
 der Besuche für Gott und die Kinder werden.
 Clerk Mrs D. Strauss

berichtet von der Sitzung am Dec 26 1936.
 Br Johann Isak sollte im Bericht in schriftlich über alles
 mit dem Geist und Schrift gegeben werden.
 Der Bericht wurde gelesen in gut verstanden.
 eine Brief von Marie Nachtigal von wurde gelesen
 worin sie bittet noch längerer Gläubig zu bleiben.
 schickte Brief \$ 1.00 für Harvest ingathering
 weil Ruben Heinrich bei den Englischen gehen
 weil so mit neuen Ruben Durksen zusammen
 als Vorsteher für Jugend werden.
 dann kamen alle Namen zur Inspektion.
 wofür Name Sam Sinner. weil S. Sinner
 nicht sollte die Verantwortung befragen so sind
 für den Bericht beauftragt werden. in Br. S. Sinner
 hat gesagt das so sein für jetzt lebt möchte für nicht
 längerer Gläubig bleiben so mit nicht
 das schriftlich im Bericht Br S. Sinner mit
 zu schreiben. am Abend January 2 1937
 over

I am to write to Eva Kimbrell and Martha Junzoles(?). I was to speak
 with Mrs. Marie Nightengale.

Br J Isak is to notify Kattie Peters and Anna P. Voth should be
 visited, for it seems she is going on sin's paths.

Clerk Mrs. D Strauss

Report from the meeting on Dec 26, 1936

Br Johann Isak prayed for seriousness and wisdom so that all might
 be done with the spirit of Christ.

The report was read and seen as good.

A letter from Marie Nachtigal was read in which she asks to remain a
 member still, also sent \$1.- for harvest ingathering. As Ruben Heinrich
 wants to go to the English, Ruben Durksen was voted in as head of the
 youth club.

Then numerous names came up for discussion. First name Sam Sinner*.
 Because S. Sinners only rarely visit the meeting they were visited by
 brothers, and Br. S. Sinner said that the way he now lives, he no longer
 wishes to be a church member. So the committee makes the suggestion
 that Br S Sinner is to be excluded*. In the evening of January 2, 1937

over
 (continued)

Peter Sinner and his wife (their family shown here)
 were excluded from church membership in 1921



Sam
 Sinner
 center
 rear (left)
 and with
 his family
 (right)

(*There being no recorded Sam Sinner in Shafter, I am guessing (without evidence) that this
 reference is to Solomon Sinner, son of Peter Sinner. -md)

Das zweite Name war Br J. Schafanska,
 es ist mit Br Schafanska sein gewohnt
 werden, es ist Ihn wenig Zeit in Gabezeit
 gegeben die zu lassen, aber weil er
 den Tabak nicht lassen will, so wurde der
 Ausschuss der Br. J. Schafanska am
 Abend vom 2, 1937 aus zu schicken,
 das dritte Name war Armon Johnson
 er hat seine Gewohnheit die zu lassen so
 mit seiner Ihn Zeit gegeben bis zum
 Sonntag 2. Januar 1937 so soll er von
 Abend Sonntag 2, 1937 aus zu schicken
 werden.

Das vierte Name ist Arnold Neufeld.
 er hat seine Gewohnheit Zeit Tabak gegeben
 nicht viel den Tabak nicht wegen Gottes
 Wort, so mit seiner Ihn Ausschuss der
 Ausschuss Arnold Neufeld aus zu schicken
 von Abend Sonntag 2, 1937

Das fünfte Name ist Helen Dargatz die ist
 von Gabezeit der J. Spock bapisch werden
 geben wenig mit Ihn gegeben, die Frucht
 so sein die jetzt lebt hat die kein Verlangen
 nach längerer Gewohnheit Ihn zu bleiben
 so ist beschlossen Ihn von Sonntag 2, 1937
 aus zu schicken. over

(continued)

The second name was Br J Schafanska(Scharpansky). A lot of work has been done with Br Schafanska; also, he was given time and opportunity to improve himself, but as he does not want to give up the tobacco, the committee suggests that B. J. Schafanska is to be excluded in the evening on Jan. 2, 1937.

The third name was Armon Johnson. He has promised to improve himself, so, he will be given time until Sabbath, January 2, if not, then he shall be excluded in the evening on January 2, 1937.

The fourth name is Arnold Neufeld. He has been using tobacco for quite some time now, also does not keep the Sabbath or God's word; so the committee makes the suggestion to exclude Arnold Neufeld on the evening of January 2, 1937.

The fifth name is Helen Dargatz. She had a visit by the siblings (church members?) J. Isaak who also prayed with her. She says, the way she now lives, she no longer has any desire to remain a church member. So it was decided to exclude her on January 2, 1937

over (continued)



Solomon/Dick Sinner and wife Emelia
 Theresa (Sinner) Wagner and John Sinner

Obituary Notice:
 Telegram Tribune January 3, 1969
 Solomon D. SINNER
 A funeral service for Solomon Dick SINNER of Arroyo Grande will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. Monday at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Shafter. Interment will follow in Shafter Memorial Park Cemetery. He was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arroyo Grande.

(continued)

Next it was voted that S. Sucket and S. Strauss should visit Mildred Heinze and talk with her, for we are hearing that her conduct is not right. Voted that jewels(?) and Schufzel/Schussel(?) (bowl?) shall be bought for the Holy Supper.

Next it was decided that Br Buller and Br J. Isaak should see to it that Sister S. Funk can get money from the county, and S. J Richert, S. Peter Durksen, Sr A. Peters were named as a committee to see to it that S. Sara Funk should not suffer lack. With prayer by C. C. Durksen we were let go.

Clerk Mrs. D. Strauss.

In 2003 I visited Ruth Rose Dirksen Burt on the occasion of her 90th birthday. She was born in New Home, ND, in 1905, when Sarah Funk (above) was 20 years old. The Dirksens, and Sarah, did not leave New Home for another twelve years, or so. I knew that Ruth and her family had lived near Sarah and her family, and that they all saw one another at church each weekend, weather permitting. When I asked Ruth what she remembered of them she said, "The one thing I always wondered was how so many of them could possibly live in that tiny little sod house!" Here is Ruth's uncle Jacob Dirksen, with Tillie Thom, in front of their relatively large and modern home, in New Home, about 1906, when Ruth was a baby and Sarah was 21 years old. -md



nextstund wir sind abgestimmt das S. Sucket in S. Strauss
Mildred Heinze besprechen in mit. Ihr gewaissen dann
wir form das Ihr betrogen nicht wuist ist,
abgestimmt das Jewels in Befugnis zum Abhandeln
gekauft fallen werden.
nextstund wir sind bepfloffen das Br Buller und
Br J. Isaak das besprechen das S. Sara Funk
geh von County bekommen kann, und
S. J Richert, S. Peter Durksen Sr A. Peters werden
als ein Committee benannt zu sein das
S. Sara Funk nicht not leiden soll.
mit Gebet von C.C. Durksen werden wir entlassen
Clerk Mrs. D. Strauss.