

Askov – Minnesota - USA



En dansk bosættelse i Minnesota

Da man mente at en særlig folkelig bevægelse snarere end kirken skulle stå for bosættelserne i Amerika besluttede Grundtvig og hans venner i 1887 at oprette Dansk Folkesamfund (Danish People's Society) med det formål at bevare og udvikle de danske indvandreres kulturelle arv.

Folkesamfundets første projekt var Danevang i Wharton County, Texas og det andet Askov i Pine County, Minnesota.

I 1906 erhvervede Folkesamfundet tyve tusinde acres (en acre = $\frac{3}{4}$ tønde land) i Pine County. Jordlodderne blev købt til forskellige priser, men solgt til ens købesummer til bosætterne.

I 1916, kun ti år efter grundlæggelsen af Askov bosættelsen, var der ca. eet tusinde beboere af dansk afstamning. De fleste boede i landsbyen Partridge med Askov – en lille nyopført bydel beboet kun af danskere – som det sociale samlingssted.

Navnet Askov er en gammel benævnelse og menes at betyde "Askeskov". Det var blevet valgt, fordi det var navnet på Askov Folkehøjskole i Danmark, et sted, der var særligt kært for grundtvigianske hjerter.



Gadenavne i Askov - Minnesota - anno 2014 -

Bregnedalgade
Brogade
Danavej
Dannebrogsgade
Engvej
Guvernorsvej
H. C. Andersens Allé
Jernbanegade
Kirke Allé
Kobmagergade
Mosevej
Pionervej
Skolegade
Skovvej
Vossevangen Way



I 1916 kunne man – foruden varehuse og butikker - prale af en stor kommuneskole, to forsamlingshuse, en fin dansk lutheransk kirke, en bank og en ugeavis, *the Askov American*. Der var ingen værtshuse.

I *the Askov American* kunne en besøgende det år læse dette filosofiske udsagn i en annonce for den lokale bank:

“Karakter er afgørende for kredit. Dollar’en kommer i anden række”.

Hvis den besøgende havde spurgt beboerne, kunne de have oplyst ham om, at den offentlige skole kunne tilbyde 12 klassetrin, at der blev undervist i dansk en time hver dag, og at kirken stod for en søndagsskole og om vinteren en efterskole for voksne med undervisning i både dansk og engelsk.

Spørgeren kunne også have fået at vide, at der blev udført velgørenhedsarbejde af kvinderne, at der var en forening for unge, en loge for the Danish Brotherhood (Brødresamfund), for ikke at tale om landmændenes forening og andre sammenslutninger af økonomisk karakter.

Ingen af disse foreninger var uden et oplysningsmæssigt sigte.

Den fremmede ville uvilkårligt have forstået et af grundtvigianernes valgsprog: “Oplysning skal være vores glæde”.

Det sociale liv var baseret på en intensiv opdyrkning af den røde jord - der tidligere var bevokset med fyrretræer - og med mejeribrug og gartneridrft som de vigtigste landbrugsformer. Et andelsmejeri blev bygget i 1910.

Oversat fra “Danish Settlement in Minnesota”



Nekrolog i Washington Post for Vern Mikkelsen
(Arild Verner Agerskov “Vern” Mikkelsen 1928-2013),
der døde 85 år gammel 21. november 2013 i sit hjem i Wayzata, Minnesota.
Mikkelsen var en kendt amerikansk basketball spiller.
Han voksede op i Askov i det nordlige Minnesota,
hvor hans far - indvandret fra Danmark - var luthersk præst.

VERN MIKKELSEN, 85

NBA Hall of Famer, 4-time champion

Vern Mikkelsen, a Hall of Fame basketball player who won four NBA titles with the Minneapolis Lakers in the 1950s, died Nov. 21 at his home in Wayzata, Minn. He was 85.

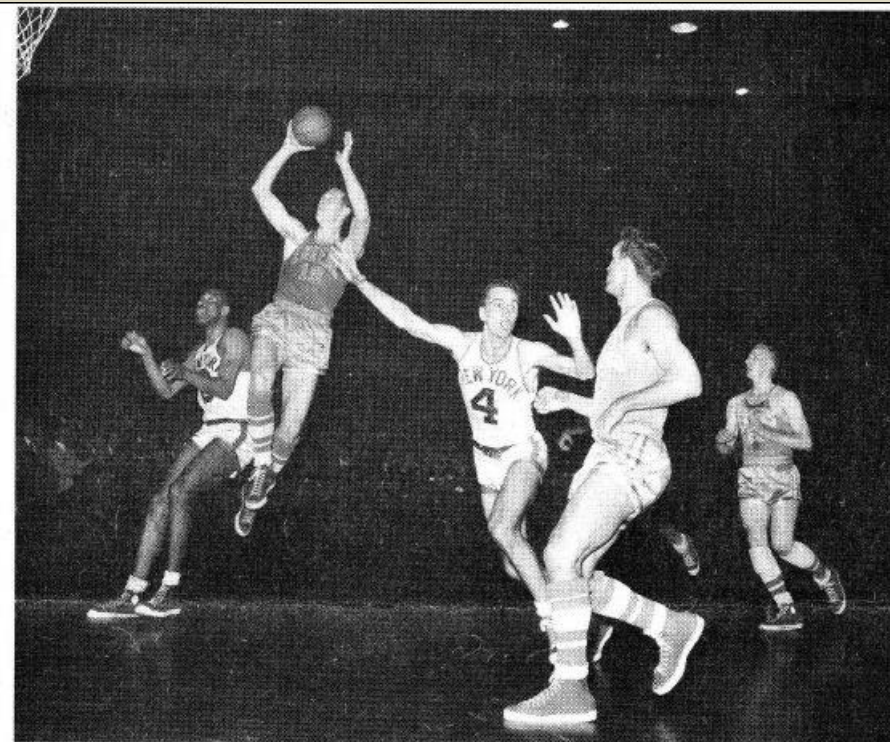
The Los Angeles Lakers announced his death. The cause was complications from prostate cancer.

Known for his hard-nosed defense, the 6-foot-7, 230-pound Mr. Mikkelsen averaged 14.4 points and 9.4 rebounds in his career and emerged as one of the league's first true power forwards. He was a six-time NBA all-star and was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995.

“I was a good basketball player, but I attribute greatness to those individuals who sacrifice their time, talents, and efforts for the benefit of others,” Mr. Mikkelsen wrote in “The Vern Mikkelsen Story,” which was published in 2006. “I did some of that, too, though not nearly as much as I would have liked to, looking back on it.”

Arild Verner Mikkelsen was born Oct. 21, 1928, in Parlier, Calif., and grew up in the northern Minnesota town of Askov, where his Danish immigrant father was a Lutheran minister.

Mr. Mikkelsen played college ball at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn. He helped lead his school to a 78-11 record during



MATTY ZIMMERMAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minneapolis Lakers forward Vern Mikkelsen shoots in a 1953 game against the New York Knicks. The Lakers were NBA champions that year, and Mikkelsen was later inducted into the Hall of Fame.

his career and to the 1949 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics small-college championship.

He was drafted by the Lakers in 1949 and helped lead the team to NBA titles in 1950 and from 1952 through 1954. Other stand-out players on the Minneapolis team, which relocated to Los Angeles in 1960, included Hall of Famers George Mikan, Slater Martin and Jim Pollard.

One of the league's original enforcers, Mr. Mikkelsen was a physical player and fouled out a record 127 times before retiring

in 1959.

He later was the coach and general manager of the Minnesota Pipers of the old American Basketball Association.

Mr. Mikkelsen's name hangs in the rafters at Staples Center in Los Angeles on a banner that also is home to the retired jersey numbers in the organization. He remained a revered figure in Minnesota long after his playing days.

He spent a dozen years working in public relations at Hamline, his alma mater, and operated an insurance business.

Mr. Mikkelsen was influential in bringing the NBA back to Minnesota in the 1980s, with the expansion Minnesota Timberwolves launching their inaugural season in 1989.

“During his playing days at Hamline University and the Lakers, Vern was a dominant force on the court and one of the game's great power forwards,” the Timberwolves said in a statement.

Mr. Mikkelsen's wife, Jean, died in 2002. Survivors include two sons and two grandchildren.

— News services and staff reports