Harold Arnold Hanson
(Harald Arnulf Hansen)

Harold Hanson was born on July 5th, 1889, in Fredrikstad, Norway. In 1907 he moved to South Saint Paul to live with his aunt and uncle, Oscar and Anette Haggensen. He worked for his uncle's grocery store prior to joining the military. Harold registered for the WWI draft on June 5th, 1917. He listed his mother as a dependent, although it appears she was in Norway at this time.

Harold enlisted into the Army in June of 1918 as part of Company A in the Ordnance Department, Aberdeen Provost Guard. The Ordnance Department in WWI oversaw sourcing and coordinating the distribution of weapons to the troops. The Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland was a place that tested munitions before they were sent to the troops. Because Harold served stateside during WWI, he was able to complete his US Naturalization process on August 1st, 1918. He was discharged on May 27th, 1919.

After WWI, Harold moved back in with his aunt and uncle in South Saint Paul, where he briefly worked as a laborer in a tannery. Sometime around 1920, he started working in the fire department at the Armour and Company Plant. By 1930 he had moved out of his aunt and uncle's house and was renting a room from Mrs. Sandquist. He had also been promoted to fire chief by this time. In 1932 his health started to fail. He was admitted to Bethesda Hospital on September 1st for an operation to remove stomach ulcers. He died on September 6th, 1932, at the age of 42, in Bethesda Hospital from complications of the surgery. He is buried in Sunset Memorial Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Harold Hanson