Harry Hanson was born on January 10th, 1898, in South Park, South Saint Paul, Minnesota. His parents were Nels and Annie Hanson, who were both born in Sweden. Harry had one younger brother named Roy. Before WWI, Harry worked as a machinist at Twin City Forge and Foundry Company in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Harry registered for the WWI draft on September 12th, 1918, at the age of 20. Just over a month later, on October 28th, 1918, he joined the Army Aviation Unit in Hastings, Minnesota. He served out of New Jersey until he was discharged on January 14th, 1919. He served for a total of two and a half months.

After his service in the Army, Harry returned to his parent’s house on Highland Street in South Saint Paul. He worked as a clerk in an office building while living with his parents. Shortly after, he moved to Detroit, Michigan, to work as a toolmaker. On July 18th, 1923, he married a hairdresser from Saint Paul, Minnesota, named Christine E. Krech, in Detroit, Michigan. By the 1930 Census, Harry and Christine were living in Livonia, Michigan, and Harry was working as a toolmaker in a Piston Ring Factory for Good Roads Machinery Corporation. Around the year 1933, they had a son named Richard. By 1940, Harry had been promoted to Superintendent at the factory. In 1942, he registered for the WWII draft at the age of 44. Their address at the time was 1140 Ingram Ave, Rosedale Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Harry died 44 years later, on May 13th, 1986, at the age of 88, in Aultman Hospital, in Canton, Ohio