

# Elmer Hanson, "The Big Swede"

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**"I tell you they are doubles. I broke in at Tacoma that same Spring, and all the events the camp are indelibly impressed in my memory. (Walter) Johnson was just such a big rangy fellow as this Hanson, only he didn't know as much and didn't have quite as good control."  
- Irv Higginbotham, March 17, 1914**

Anytime a young pitcher is compared to Washington Senators' Hall of Famer [Walter Johnson](#), it merits attention. That is exactly what happens to 19-year-old pitcher [Elmer Hanson](#) at the Portland Beavers' 1914 spring training camp where he impresses former major leaguer and current Beaver teammate [Irv Higginbotham](#) with his talent.

Unfortunately for the 6-foot, 180-pound right-hander, Higginbotham proves to be a better pitcher (31 wins in 1914) than prognosticator, as Hanson will last only five games with the Beavers before being demoted across town to the Portland Colts of the Northwestern (B) League.

Born Elmer Augustus Hanson on June 5, 1895, to Nels and Christine Hanson in San Bernardino, California,

he grows into a talented all-around athlete. On the diamond, he is known almost as well for his hitting as he is for his assortment of pitches. During the course of his career he frequently finds himself playing first base or the outfield when not attending to his mound chores.



In an 11-year veteran of pro baseball, talented-but-eccentric pitcher Irv Higginbotham wins 152 games in the minors and 10 more in three major league seasons with the Cardinals and the Cubs. With the Portland Beavers in 1914, Higginbotham leads the Pacific Coast League in wins (31) and innings pitched (417.2). Three years later, he is out of baseball. Born in 1882 in Homer, Nebraska, Higginbotham insists that he started pitching on semipro teams in 1894 as a 12-year-old in Deadwood, South Dakota.



Elmer Hanson's 1921 Zeenut card No. 61 is worth \$49.99 in fair-to-good condition. Hanson's appearance in Zeenut's 1921 series is surprising considering that the 26-year-old right-hander appears in only three games for the San Francisco Seals before being sent to the Victoria Bees on April 26, where he is 11-14.



Walter Johnson was one of the first five players elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936. In 21 seasons with the Washington Senators, Johnson won 417 games, the second most by any pitcher in history. Johnson had twelve 20-win seasons, including ten in a row and twice he won 30 games.

The World War I veteran (four months deployed in France with the Army's Engineers) will have an extensive 15-year minor league career before retiring from the Texas League's Houston Buffaloes in the middle of the 1933 season suffering from pleurisy and a blood clot in his right arm.

In 1921, after three years away from organized baseball, Hanson makes the opening day roster of the San Francisco Seals, but following three appearances and a 9.82 ERA, he finds himself on a train to the Pacific Northwest where he assumes the responsibilities of player-manager for the Victoria Bees at the age of 26. In 79 games for the Bees, Hanson hits .346 with nine doubles, five triples and nine home runs in only 185 at bats.

In February of 1922, Hanson is one of 13 prospective pitchers listed on the spring training roster of the San Francisco Seals. On March 9, Hanson is hit on the knee with a baseball at a Seals' practice and "forced to seek hospital aid as soon as possible." Sixteen days later (March 25) Hanson is shipped across the country in an unexplained transaction to Greenville of the South Atlantic (B) League, where for the second time in his career he is used more in the field (.285, 114 hits, 3 home runs) than on the mound (4-3, 15 appearances) for the last-place Spinners.

Seven of his last eight years in baseball are spent in the Texas (A) League with the Beaumont Exporters (1926-1929) and the Houston Buffaloes (1931-1933). In 1926, Hanson is 10-8 for the Exporters with a 5.84

**Elmer Hanson [2 of 6]:**

**FORMER BASEBALL PLAYER PASSES IN SAN BERNARDINO**

Elmer Augustus Hanson, 61, an early San Bernardino contribution to organized baseball, died yesterday at his residence, 1136 College Dr.

Born in San Bernardino, June 5, 1895, Hanson received his education in city schools, and then in 1920 left the city, to return in 1928 and establish a service station at 3rd and J Sts., which he managed until his death.

Breaking into organized baseball as a youngster, Hanson saw service in the Coast, Texas and Northwest Leagues, showing well at several positions.

He retained an active interest in the national pastime, after the end of his playing career.

ERA, but hits .459 with 17 doubles and seven home runs. Two years later, a 33-year-old Hanson is the workhorse for a last-place (50-96) Beaumont team and is second in the league in innings pitched (268), but leads in hits allowed (350) and losses (23).

His two best seasons come in back-to-back years. In 1931, he is 16-7 with a 1.81 ERA for the pennant-winning Houston Buffaloes. The following season he wins a career-best 17 games, including three shut-outs. In 1933, the tall Californian is having another stellar year (8-2, 1.96) when his career is brought to an abrupt end with advanced symptoms of pleurisy.

Following his playing days, he returns to San Bernardino and establishes a service station in the city. Hansen dies on March 20, 1957, at the age of 61.

**HANSON CHRONOLOGY**

**April 23, 1913 ▶▶**

Pitching for the San Bernardino Kittens, Hanson makes his professional baseball debut with a complete-game win over the visiting Long Beach Beachcombers in a Southern California (D) League game played before a couple of hundred fans at Urbita Springs Park ... in a game described as "the best tonic for tired and worn out overworked businessmen," player/manager Ed Householder homers and Hanson allows five hits and strikes out 10 as the Kittens move to 2-0 on the young season.

**Pro Debut**

Long Beach Beachcombers at San Bernardino Kittens April 23, 1913

**ELMER HANSEN'S FINE WORK IN BOX IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANOTHER VICTORY FOR LOCALS**

| Long Beach       |           |          |           |           |           |          |   |   |   |   |
|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|---|---|---|---|
|                  | AB.       | R.       | H.        | PO.       | A.        | E.       |   |   |   |   |
| Conless, lf      | 3         | 0        | 0         | 1         | 2         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Kelly, cf        | 4         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1        |   |   |   |   |
| Prayer, rf       | 4         | 0        | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Lockhart, ss     | 3         | 1        | 2         | 2         | 1         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Hathaway, 2b     | 3         | 0        | 0         | 2         | 2         | 1        |   |   |   |   |
| Pico, 2b         | 3         | 0        | 1         | 2         | 2         | 2        |   |   |   |   |
| Markham, c, p    | 2         | 1        | 1         | 4         | 5         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Durham, p        | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| McCormick, c     | 2         | 0        | 1         | 2         | 0         | 1        |   |   |   |   |
| Griffin, 1b      | 3         | 0        | 0         | 5         | 1         | 1        |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>28</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>24</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>6</b> |   |   |   |   |
| San Bernardino   |           |          |           |           |           |          |   |   |   |   |
|                  | AB.       | R.       | H.        | PO.       | A.        | E.       |   |   |   |   |
| Smith, 2b        | 3         | 0        | 0         | 1         | 1         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Stewart, lf      | 5         | 1        | 2         | 1         | 0         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Stadell, cf      | 3         | 2        | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Householder, rf  | 4         | 3        | 2         | 2         | 0         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Fox, ss          | 5         | 1        | 2         | 0         | 5         | 1        |   |   |   |   |
| Jones, 2b        | 4         | 1        | 2         | 3         | 4         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Kerber, 1b       | 3         | 1        | 2         | 3         | 1         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Torten, c        | 4         | 0        | 0         | 12        | 1         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| Hansen, p        | 4         | 1        | 1         | 0         | 2         | 0        |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>35</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>1</b> |   |   |   |   |
| Score by Innings |           |          |           |           |           |          |   |   |   |   |
| Long Beach       | 0         | 10       | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| His              | 0         | 0        | 20        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| San Bernardino   | 104       | 0        | 0         | 20        | 0         | 0        | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| His              | 104       | 0        | 13        | 20        | 0         | 0        | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**1913 Southern California League**

Final - Regular Season

| Teams  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB     |
|--|----|----|------|--------|
| San Diego Bears                                  | 56 | 33 | .629 | --     |
| San Bernardino Kittens                           | 48 | 38 | .558 | 6 1/2  |
| Long Beach Beachcombers                          | 43 | 46 | .483 | 13     |
| Santa Barbara Barbareans & Pasadena Millionaires | 27 | 57 | .321 | 26 1/2 |

The short-lived Southern California League existed for only part of one season in 1913. On July 23, the league's directors voted to pause the season for five days and resume play on July 29. The directors also decided that the Santa Barbara Barbareans will continue to play as a road team until a suitable facility can be leased in the city.

With a mass exodus of players, only San Diego and San Bernardino are able to resume play on July 30. The league formally ceases to exist on August 3. The season was split into two halves, with San Diego winning the first half that ended on June 30

First Half

| Teams                    | W  | L  | Pct. | GB     |
|--------------------------|----|----|------|--------|
| San Diego Bears          | 46 | 24 | .657 | --     |
| San Bernardino Kittens   | 40 | 29 | .580 | 5 1/2  |
| Long Beach Beachcombers  | 33 | 36 | .478 | 12 1/2 |
| Santa Barbara Barbareans | 20 | 50 | .286 | 26     |

Second Half

| Teams                    | W  | L  | Pct. | GB  |
|--------------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| San Diego Bears          | 10 | 9  | .526 | --  |
| Long Beach Beachcombers  | 10 | 10 | .500 | 1/2 |
| Santa Barbara Barbareans | 7  | 7  | .500 | 1/2 |
| San Bernardino Kittens   | 8  | 9  | .471 | 1   |

Citing poor support, Pasadena (15-38) moves to Santa Barbara (12-19) on June 13. Despite the shortened season, the four teams manage to go through 10 managers with each team having at least two. Bull Durham managed at both Long Beach and Santa Barbara.

July 9, 1913

Retiring the first 17 batters he faces, Hanson allows only six hits on 66 pitches to beat the visiting San Diego Bears 10-1.

August 22, 1913

Saddled with a sore arm, Hanson returns home to San Bernardino following his outright release by the San Jose Bears manager **Walt Nagle**.

September 21, 1913

Hanson returns to the mound and allows only three singles in Santa Fe's 9-2 win over the San Diego Cafe club of Los Angeles.

**Portland Club Wants Elmer Hansen**

February 8, 1914

Hanson is pitching so well for the Urbita Stars that he receives a telegram from **Walter McCredie** of the Portland Beavers that simply states, "Wire us your terms to play ball for Portland."

March 17, 1914

Hanson is slated to be the starting pitcher in Portland's exhibition game against the Chicago White Sox.

March 24, 1914

Taking a big step towards making the opening day roster of the Beavers, Hanson allows nine hits, four walks and pitches out of bases loaded jams in the eighth and ninth innings en route to a 6-2 complete game win over the touring Chicago Colored Giants.

## Elmer Hanson Year by Year:

| Year                       | Team                           | League                      | Level       | W-L    | Finish     | W-L            | GP         | GS        | CG        | SHO      | INN            | H            | BB         | SO         | ERA         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------|------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>1913</b>                | <b>2 Teams</b>                 | <b>2 Leagues</b>            | <b>D</b>    |        |            | <b>11-8</b>    | <b>24</b>  | <b>19</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>177.0</b>   | <b>170</b>   | <b>52</b>  | <b>87</b>  | <b>--</b>   |
| 1913                       | San Bernardino Kittens         | Southern California         | D           | 48-38  | [1] 2 of 4 | 11-5           | 20         | 16        | 15        | 0        | 150.0          | 132          | 38         | 70         | --          |
| 1913                       | San Jose Bears                 | Northern California         | D           |        |            | 0-3            | 4          | 3         | 2         | 0        | 27.0           | 38           | 14         | 17         | --          |
| 1913                       | Santa Fe Reds                  | Central                     | SPro        | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| <b>1914</b>                | <b>2 Teams</b>                 | <b>2 Leagues</b>            | <b>B-AA</b> |        |            | <b>4-9</b>     | <b>23</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>101.0</b>   | <b>110</b>   | <b>61</b>  | <b>34</b>  | <b>--</b>   |
| 1914                       | Portland Beavers               | Pacific Coast               | AA          | 113-84 | 1 of 6     | 0-1            | 5          | 1         | 0         | 0        | 7.1            | 7            | 6          | 1          | 7.88        |
| 1914                       | Portland Colts/Ballard Pippins | Northwestern                | B           | 58-96  | 6 of 6     | 3-4            | 12         | 11        | 6         | 0        | 52.0           | 57           | 27         | 22         | --          |
| 1914                       | Victoria Bees                  | Northwestern                | B           | 67-87  | 4 of 6     | 1-5            | 6          | 5         | 4         | 0        | 41.2           | 46           | 28         | 11         | --          |
| <b>1915</b>                | <b>2 Teams</b>                 | <b>1 League</b>             |             |        |            | <b>8-12</b>    | <b>26</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>154.0</b>   | <b>193</b>   | <b>44</b>  | <b>30</b>  | <b>--</b>   |
| 1915                       | Victoria Bees                  | Northwestern                | B           | 41-61  | [2] 6 of 6 | 8-11           | 24         | -         | -         | -        | 144.0          | 180          | 44         | 26         | --          |
| 1915                       | Tacoma Tigers                  | Northwestern                | B           | 96-72  | 2 of 6     | 0-1            | 2          | 1         | 0         | 0        | 10.0           | 13           | 0          | 4          | --          |
| <b>1916</b>                | <b>2 Teams</b>                 | <b>2 Leagues</b>            | <b>D-A</b>  |        |            | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>     | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>   | <b>--</b>   |
| 1916                       | Topeka Savages                 | Western                     | A           | 70-84  | 6 of 8     | 0-0            | 0          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1916                       | Fort Dodge Dodgers             | Central Association         | D           | 41-83  | 8 of 8     | 0-0            | 1          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| <b>1917</b>                | <b>2 Teams</b>                 | <b>1 League</b>             | <b>D</b>    |        |            | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>     | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>   | <b>--</b>   |
| 1917                       | Fort Dodge Dodgers             | Central Association         | D           | 37-57  | [3] 8 of 8 | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1917                       | Cedar Rapids/Clear Lake        | Central Association         | D           | 39-52  | [3] 5 of 8 | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1918                       | Camp Fremont                   | US Army                     | -           | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1919                       | American Service League        | Northern California         | SPro        | -      | -          | 6-0            | 6          | 6         | 5         | 3        | 54.0           | 24           | -          | -          | --          |
| 1920                       | American Service League        | Northern California         | SPro        | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| <b>1921</b>                | <b>2 Teams</b>                 | <b>2 Leagues</b>            | <b>B-AA</b> |        |            | <b>11-15</b>   | <b>32</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>229.1</b>   | <b>--</b>    | <b>61</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>--</b>   |
| 1921                       | San Francisco Seals            | Pacific Coast               | AA          | -      | -          | 0-1            | 3          | -         | -         | -        | 11.0           | --           | --         | -          | 9.82        |
| 1921                       | Victoria Bees                  | Pacific Coast International | B           | -      | -          | 11-14          | 29         | 27        | 20        | 2        | 218.1          | --           | 61         | 100        | --          |
| 1922                       | Greenville Spinners            | South Atlantic              | B           | 50-82  | 6 of 6     | 4-3-1          | 15         | -         | -         | -        | 72.0           | 102          | 22         | 33         | 5.12        |
| 1923                       | Hammond Lumber Inc.            | Winter League               | SPro        | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1923                       | Santa Fe Reds                  | Winter League               | SPro        | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1924                       | Urbita All-Stars               | Winter League               | SPro        | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1925                       | Arcadia Merchants              | Orange Belt                 | SPro        | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1925                       | Elks Club                      | Winter League               | SPro        | -      | -          | -              | -          | -         | -         | -        | -              | -            | -          | -          | --          |
| 1926                       | Beaumont Exporters             | Texas                       | A           | 76-80  | 5 of 8     | 10-8           | 30         | -         | 10        | 0        | 148.0          | 192          | 52         | 40         | 5.84        |
| 1927                       | Beaumont Exporters             | Texas                       | A           | 56-97  | 8 of 8     | 8-2            | 14         | -         | 10        | 1        | 107.0          | 110          | 41         | 21         | 3.79        |
| 1928                       | Beaumont Exporters             | Texas                       | A           | 50-96  | 8 of 8     | 8-23           | 38         | -         | +26       | 1        | 268.0          | +350         | 65         | 45         | 4.57        |
| 1929                       | Beaumont Exporters             | Texas                       | A           | 72-87  | 7 of 8     | 13-11          | 31         | -         | 18        | -        | 211.0          | 222          | 52         | 47         | 3.84        |
| 1930                       | Seattle Indians                | Pacific Coast               | AA          | 92-107 | 6 of 8     | 10-7           | 46         |           |           |          | 165.0          | 206          | 52         | 51         | 4.58        |
| <b>1931</b>                | <b>2 Teams</b>                 | <b>2 Leagues</b>            | <b>A-AA</b> |        |            | <b>16-7</b>    | <b>43</b>  | <b>18</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>190.0</b>   | <b>150</b>   | <b>53</b>  | <b>76</b>  | <b>1.80</b> |
| 1931                       | Seattle Indians                | Pacific Coast               | AA          | 83-104 | 8 of 8     | 0-0            | 1          | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1.0            | 1            | 1          | 1          | 0.00        |
| 1931                       | Houston Buffaloes              | Texas                       | A           | 108-51 | 1 of 8     | 16-7           | 42         | 18        | 11        | 2        | 189.0          | 150          | 53         | 75         | 1.81        |
| 1932                       | Houston Buffaloes              | Texas                       | A           | 88-66  | 3 of 8     | 17-10          | 42         | 19        | 12        | 3        | 181.0          | 206          | 49         | 67         | 3.23        |
| 1933                       | Houston Buffaloes              | Texas                       | A           | 94-57  | 1 of 8     | 8-2            | 16         |           | 2         | 0        | 78.0           | 67           | 30         | 29         | 1.96        |
| <b>Minor League Totals</b> |                                |                             |             |        |            | <b>120-113</b> | <b>365</b> |           |           |          | <b>1,948.1</b> | <b>1,952</b> | <b>599</b> | <b>429</b> | <b>--</b>   |

+Denotes led league

[1] Southern California League disbanded July 23; [2] Victoria Bees disbanded August 1; [3] Season closed on account of War

### Elmer Augustus Hanson

Bats: Left • Throws: Right

Born: June 5, 1895 in San Bernardino, Calif.

Died: March 20, 1957 in San Bernardino, Calif. (61)

## Elmer Hanson [3 of 6]:

March 27, 1914

Hailed as "The greatest find in years," by Portland manager Walt McCredie, Hanson makes the Beavers' opening day roster when he is given two uniforms - home and road.

April 12, 1914

Hanson's Portland debut is something less than stellar as he lasts only four batters, yielding a single and two walks in a 15-6 loss to the first-place San Francisco Seals in the second game of a Pacific Coast League doubleheader ... 24-game winner [Charles Fanning](#) allows 12 hits but gets the route-going win for the Seals.

May 24, 1914

Hanson is 0-1 with a 7.88 ERA with the Beavers when he and spitballer [Roy Brown](#) are optioned to the Portland Colts of the



## Elmer Hanson [4 of 6]:



Oscar "Flip-Flap" Jones pitches three seasons (1903-1905) for the National League's Brooklyn Superbas, posting a 44-54 record with a 3.20 ERA. The Carter, Missouri, native wins a major league career-high 19 games as a rookie in 1903. He wins 31 games for the PCL's Seattle Siwashers in 1906 and 29 for the San Francisco Seals a year later. Jones is released by three teams in the Northwestern League in 1914 - his final season in professional baseball.

Northwestern (B) League ... to make room for Hanson and Brown, the Colts leave behind 19-year-old [Fred Frambach](#) and 34-year-old former major leaguer [Oscar "Flip Flap" Jones](#) before leaving for a series in Seattle.

August 1914

The Portland Colts sell Hanson to the Victoria Bees and he beats Vancouver 4-3 in his debut.

August 15, 1915

Hanson is released by the Tacoma Tigers.

December 1, 1915

Hanson tells the *San Bernardino News* that he has offers to play for teams in the Pacific Coast, Western and Texas Leagues in the upcoming seasons.

December 23, 1915

"Leaving one dying cause for another," Hanson jumps the San Bernardino winter team for another team in Imperial, California.

January 6, 1916

Hanson signs with the Topeka Savages of the Western League.

April 1916

Hanson is Topeka's starting right fielder in the team's season opener.

April 29, 1916

Hanson hits his first home run of the season as Topeka beats St. Joseph and wins a silk lined suit awarded by a local tailor to a Topeka player to hit a home run.

May 3, 1916

Topeka owner John Savage releases Hanson and keeps 33-year-old ex-major leaguer [Al "Cheese" Schweitzer](#) instead ... Schweitzer, who played four seasons with the St. Louis Browns from 1908 to 1911, responds to the vote of confidence by hitting .254 with 19 doubles and three home runs before being released in September after missing a couple of week with a leg injury ... Hanson, who was drawing a large salary, signs with the Central Association's Fort Dodge Dodgers.

1916

Hanson hits .274 for Fort Dodge with 113 hits and 55 runs scored.

**ELMER HANSEN  
HAS FORSAKEN  
BALL DIAMOND**

Local Player Is At Home  
And Will Not Return  
To National Game

July 16, 1917

Citing chronic arm problems, Hanson quits the game of baseball and returns home to San Bernardino.

1918-1919

Hanson Enlists in the Army and is stationed at Camp Fremont ... 319th Engineer Regiment

July 15, 1919

Fresh out of the Army and sporting a perfect 6-0 mark while pitching for San Bernardino's American Service League team, Hanson signs a contract with the American League's Washington Senators.

April 28, 1921

Saddled with an 0-1 mark and a 9.82 ERA in three games with the San Francisco Seals, Hanson is "farmed out" to the Victoria Bees of the Pacific Coast International (B) League.



Former major leaguer outfielder Al Schweitzer is a favorite with Topeka fans in 1916. The 33-year-old Cleveland native hits .254 for the Savages with 19 doubles and three home runs. Schweitzer hit .238 in four seasons with the St. Louis Browns.

## Elmer Hanson [5 of 6]:

### HANSEN FARMED OUT TO VANCOUVER TEAM

Pitcher Elmer Hansen, local twirler with the San Francisco Club, has been farmed out to Victoria, Pacific International League, according to notice appearing in Los Angeles papers yesterday afternoon.

Mike Firebaugh, manager of the local club, said last evening that the notice in the Los Angeles papers is the first knowledge he had that Hansen was going north. Hansen was in San Bernardino last Monday with Sam Agnew, also a San Bernardino player, now with the Seals, and told Firebaugh that there was nothing definite concerning his staying with the Seals club.

"Hansen is as good a pitcher as the 'Frisco team possesses," said Firebaugh, discussing the story. "San Francisco leads the Coast League by almost a hundred per cent, and with the old staff of pitchers going so strong, they evidently do not see the necessity of using their younger twirlers. I don't think 'Frisco will let Hansen go."

July 12, 1921

Mired in last place, the Victoria Bees name Hanson as team manager succeeding [Cliff Blankenship](#).

September 7, 1921

San Francisco Seals manager [Charles Graham](#) announces the team is recalling Hanson for the remainder of the season ... one of the top pitchers in the Pacific Coast International League with 11 wins, Hanson is also one of the top four batters with nine home runs and a .346 batting average ... the first-place Seals (95-66) lead Sacramento (93-67) by a 1 1/2 games and Los Angeles (92-67) by two games.

September 21, 1921

Two weeks after being acquired by the Seals, Hanson returns home to San Bernardino because of an undetermined illness.

February 10, 1922

Hanson receives a contract from the San Francisco Seals and is told to report for spring training in Boyes Springs, California. The Seals held their annual spring training in Boyes Springs from 1922 to 1946.

April 18, 1922

Hanson, who replaced [Cliff Blankenship](#) as manager of the Victoria Bees in 1921, is once again reunited with Blankenship when the Seals turn his contract over the Greenville Spinners of the South Atlantic League.

February 12, 1926

Hanson is pitching for the semipro Arcadia Angels of the Orange Belt League.

February 17, 1926

Hanson signs with the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League.



Hanson begins the 1921 season with the San Francisco Seals. After three outings and a 9.82 ERA, he is optioned to the Victoria Bees, where he is appointed as the team's manager on July 13.



Elmer Hanson  
1926 Beaumont Exporters



Augustus "Gus" Whelan, played for the Shreveport Sports of the Texas League for six seasons (1928-1933). In 1931, he set a minor-league record by handling 838 consecutive chances without an error. Proficient at drawing walks - 114 in 1929, 118 in 1930). Whelan hit .270 in 686 Texas League games for the Sports.

April 16, 1926

A "young" Elmer Hanson makes his Texas League debut with a 4-2 complete game loss to the Houston Buffaloes.

October 9, 1926

Several newspapers proclaim Hanson as the batting champion of the Texas League with his batting average of .459 ... 56 Texas League players hit over .300.

May 8, 1929

Pitching for the Beaumont Exporters, Hanson is one single shy of pitching a perfect game in a 9-0 win over the visiting Shreveport Sports ... first baseman [Augustus Whelan](#) is the only Shreveport batter to reach base with his seventh in-ning line drive single over second base.

December 14, 1929

Hanson is purchased by the Seattle Giants from Beaumont of the Texas League.

July 9, 1933

Pitching for the Houston Buffaloes and enjoying one of the best seasons of his lengthy career, Hanson is forced to retire from the game because of pleurisy and a blood clot in his throwing arm ... Hanson is 8-2 with a 1.96 ERA at the time of his ailment and is his three seasons with the Buffs he is 41-19 with a 2.41 ERA.

## Elmer Hanson [6 of 6]:

February 2, 1934

Houston Buffaloes President Fred Ankenman receives a letter from Hanson that he is retiring because of a blood clot in his right arm.

### The Tragic Story of Elmer Hanson

By KERN TIPS

Retirement of Elmer Hanson, long a fixture in the Texas league, by the Houston Buffs doesn't begin to tell the tragic story that has been woven about this conscientious, durable right handed pitcher. The inside story is simply this: Hanson may never pitch another baseball, on pain of death.

That dismal verdict was handed down by doctors who attended Hanson and his ailment after the big Swede was stricken with pleurisy some time ago. Hanson has lost the use of his right arm completely and his baseball career has come to an abrupt and heart-breaking conclusion for all time. Hanson will never again play baseball.

The illness that has attacked Hanson's salary arm has been traced in plenty that laid him low several weeks ago. Recovered from that ailment, Hanson tried to get back in shape to join the Buffs but each attempt to work out caused a painful swelling in his arm. This activity forced a crisis and brought on the condition that caused doctors to view Hanson's arm gravely and shake their heads.

A clot in the major vein of the arm developed each time Hanson tried to hurl. Soon it became painful for Hanson even to move his arm. And then it was that doctors decreed that the big pitcher had developed a permanent disability that not only ended his career but probably has cost him the use of his right arm for any sort of physical effort.

Hanson is stunned by this verdict of medical men; it doesn't even occur possible that his stout arm, one of the tuffest variety in baseball and subject to a world of work in the past, had suddenly

gone back on him. That arm is Hanson's bread and butter, for baseball is his career. Yet he has been advised to keep the arm quiet, else he risks more serious complications than threaten his health.

The big fellow knows all this; he broke down and wept when he was told. It means that baseball is behind him. They say he has been put on the voluntary retired list, but that is just a gesture of baseball. Behind that there is the next chapter, for the Houston Buffs, appreciating Hanson's service, his character and his loyalty, have retired Hanson, but they have made a financial settlement with him.

Hanson has not been cut off and sent away, because baseball, strangely enough, is fiercely sentimental about its players who have played the game squarely, given their best and been "right." So Hanson goes back to his wife and family in Los Angeles, his right arm painful still. He has been compelled to turn his back on the game that gave him a livelihood; no more will he pick around the diamond, for, overnight, something has happened to end all that.

There's tragedy in the fact that has befallen the big blond Swede, who has been eased from baseball. It came to him when he was leading the Texas league pitchers in winning percentage when he was having his "big year," pitching better than ever, still going strong. He is favored somewhat as the thought that baseball and the Buffs are helping him find his way along new paths; but what must be the inner emotions of this frozen faced, stolid Swede as he piles west, going home, his baseball career a memory.

1939

Hansen owns a gas filling station (right) in San Bernardino.

March 20, 1957

Hanson dies in San Bernardino, California, at the age of 61.

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