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Obituaries

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Norman W. Hanson, five-time

state senator, dies of cancer

By Ted Jones
Staff Writer

Norman W. Hanson, a five-term DFL state senator from 1954 to 1972, died of cancer Sunday at his farm home outside of Cromwell, Minn. He was 85.

While representing District 54 in Carlton and Aitkin counties and the eastern edge of Crow Wing County,

Hanson authored several bills for the preservation of Minnesota's natural resources, including the bill creating Savannah State Park near McGregor. Hanson also served on the Highways, Game and Fish, and Finance committees.

"Sen. Hanson was a tremendous man — huge amounts of common sense and integrity — a natural man for elective office," said Lawrence Yet-

ka, senior member of the Minnesota State Supreme Court and a close colleague.

Hanson, born in Barnum and raised in Winton and Ely, Minn., was the oldest son in a family that included three brothers and a sister.

"The Depression was a tough time for his family. He farmed and worked in the woods cutting lumber

and worked hard to help support his family," said Hanson's son, Rolf. "I think he carried those years into his public life — trying as a senator to make life a little easier for others..."

Hanson owned and operated farm a mile south of Cromwell, and worked as an insurance man before and after his terms in public office. His family moved to Cromwell in 1919.

Hanson had been a member of the Carlton County Fair Board, the Cromwell Board of Education, the Carlton County Historical Society and the Minnesota Farmers' Union.

Survivors include his wife, Clara; three sons, Norman Jr. of Roseville; Rolf, also of Roseville, and Hans of Spokane, Wash.; two brothers, Frank and Hogan, of Cromwell; and six grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at United Methodist Church in Cromwell. Arrangements are by Northland Funeral Home, Cloquet, Minn.