Maplewood and Hattie Sherwood

(Excerpted from Green Lake Memories II: Thomas Gnewuch)

The story of Maplewood, located on South Lawson Drive, begins in the mid 1840's with the purchase of 1200 acres of land along the north side of the lake by two brothers, William and John C. Sherwood. John went into the mill business and later built the Sherwood Forest Hotel, but William was interested in farming, and, in 1850, constructed a farmhouse on part of the land obtained by land grant from the government. A large barn was constructed and a fine dairy herd assembled.



William and his wife Julia had one daughter Hattie Sherwood born in 1855. She married Victor Kutchin in 1876, when Victor was a young Baptist minister in Waupun and the chaplain of the State Penitentiary. When the church was discontinued, Victor studied medicine in Chicago and after receiving his MD, he returned to Waupun to serve as the penitentiary physician for more than ten years.

In 1890, Dr. Kutchin, Hattie and their two children, Victor and Donna, moved to the Sherwood farm. The following year, he built an addition to the original farmhouse located in a beautiful grove of maple trees and planned to open a sanitarium on the site but was persuaded by healthy vacationers to open it as **The Maplewood Hotel** in 1891.



The hotel was a big success from the beginning. It provided fresh food and flowers from the adjacent farm. A small island off the shore was reached by a wooden bridge and a pier for boating and swimming extended out from the island. Eventually Dr. Kutchin added a second large addition to the hotel and, later yet, four cottages on the grounds.



Their son Victor and his wife Harriet managed the Maplewood Farm and helped Dr. Kutchin with the hotel operation until he turned it

over to them in 1914, but he continued as an amiable host during the 1920s and 1930s.



When Hattie Sherwood died, her husband Dr. Victor Kutchin donated a parcel of land on May 4, 1927 to the City of Green Lake for a public park and named it Hattie Sherwood Park in memory of William Sherwood's daughter. When the land was deeded to the City, they stipulated that "the land shall be kept and maintained as a public park" and that "the park shall be preserved and maintained as a sanctuary, safe resort, breeding and resting place for birds of every kind and the City shall take every precaution to prevent the use of firearms at the park." This



is the Hattie Sherwood Beach and the Hattie Sherwood Park and Campground.

After 65 years, the Maplewood Resort Hotel closed its doors in 1956 and was razed two years later.

The property sat vacant until 2004 when it was purchased for a new housing 29 lot development named Maplewood in honor of this historic site in Green Lake.

