

## Resorts – Maple Hurst

By Barbara Bedau Brow  
White Lake Area Historical Society



1913 – Maple Hurst – Mrs. Anna Webb, Prop.

The house known as Maple Hurst began as the private residence of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Peterson and their family. Charles Peterson was born in Sweden 14 Nov 1850. He married Anna Munson who was born in Sweden 7 Dec 1851, and immigrated in 1867. It appears that they married around 1876 and they had 6 children, 2 of whom died as infants: John Erwin (1878-1908), Edward Carl (1880-1967), Elizabeth (1885-1975) and Edna (1890-1960). According to the 1880, they were living in Holton and Charles was listed as a mill worker. Exactly when they moved to this house is unclear. Charles was also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees (K.O.T.M.) and was appointed deputy game warden in the Spring of 1891. It was through the performance of his duties as game warden that he met his untimely death. Charles died from pneumonia on 4 Feb 1892 at the age of 41 years. He was buried in Oakhurst Cemetery.

In June 1900, Mrs. Peterson put new windows in her residence and added other improvements. In April 1903, Anna Peterson married Samuel Webb. Mr. Webb, a retired building contractor from Chicago, was a man of considerable means and had a summer cottage at Sylvan Beach. The Webbs would spend the summers there and then move to her house in town for the winter. In May 1909, Samuel Webb filed for divorce which was not granted at the time.

In 1906, Anna Webb had a cement foundation built under her residence. In June 1910, she remodeled her residence at Maple Grove by adding dormer windows above the porch and a wide veranda (wrap around porch). The house also received an attractive coat of paint.

The first mention of the name Maple Hurst in the newspapers was 30 June 1913. One clipping in the paper indicated that "Maple Hurst is a quiet haven of rest. Mrs. Webb who conducts Maple Hurst surely takes good care of her guests." An ad described Maple Hurst as a quiet home, facing White Lake, affording restful vacation. Good Fishing, Bathing and Boating. Good board – home cooking - \$9.00 and \$10.00 per week. Goodrich Boats direct.

Samuel Webb died in Chicago in July 1917. Anna Webb died in Greenville at the home of her daughter Elizabeth in December 1925. She was buried in Oakhurst Cemetery alongside her first husband Charles and their son John.

In 1919, Joseph & Eva Quinlan purchased "Maple Hurst" from Mrs. Webb. Mr. Quinlan was a retired officer from the Chicago police force. For a time, the property was referred to as "Bright Star". Some years later however, around 1935, it went back to being called "Maplehurst" again. The Quinlan's operated a summer resort there for about 25 years - until the death of Joe Quinlan in February 1939. Mrs. Quinlan continued to operate the resort alone for a couple of years, but the shortage of help forced her to finally discontinue it. Due to ill health, Eva Quinlan sold "Maplehurst" in October, 1944, and she and her daughter moved to California where they had many relatives.

Mr. & Mrs. J.J. Farrell of Chicago became the new owners of "Maplehurst" in October, 1944. Joseph J. Farrell was listed along with his wife Mary in the 1950 census residing on the corner of Prospect and Pine. He was listed as a salesman for cemetery equipment. It is believed that the house was then used as a private residence. They sold the property in June, 1952, to Jim & Thelma Tanis who operated it as a rooming house.

In 1955, Tanis wanted to expand his business to include serving meals to the public as well as those who stayed at the rooming house. On April 22, 1955, the Tanis' held their Grand Opening of the 5 T's Restaurant at the former "Maplehurst". The last ad that was located for the 5 T's was in October 1957, when they featured Roasted Chicken as a Sunday Special and Pizza on Friday-Sunday – eat here or carry out. James Tanis died in the Fall 1959. It appears that the Tanis family continued to live in the former Maplehurst residence until sometime in the mid to late 1960s.

The house still exists today. In September 1979 a real estate ad showed the house listed for sale as a duplex. More recent ads list it as being four rental apartments.