



**Warde G. McLaughlin**  
**(1901-1964)**



Born at the turn of the last in the rural Hudson River town of Catskill, New York, Warde G. McLaughlin graduated from the Catskill Free Academy in 1919. As a result of the nation being at war, and a consequential teacher shortage, it was possible to go directly from high school into teaching. Accordingly, Mr. McLaughlin secured a teaching position at Bethel Ridge and later at Allaben, New York.

This educational experience confirmed his interest and enjoyment in the field of education. He graduated from Oneonta, one of New York State's Teacher colleges, and was hired for a junior high school teaching position in Babylon where he taught history from 1925 to 1929. In 1929 he applied for and was hired as principal of the Fifth Avenue and Brook Avenue elementary schools in Bay Shore, a position he held until 1937.

Mr. McLaughlin earned a Master's degree in secondary school education from Columbia University in 1934. Further graduate courses at New York University and Columbia University resulted in the approval of a doctorate thesis, but he never found the time to complete the course requirements.

From 1937 to 1939, he served as principal of the Fourth Avenue Grade School. As a result of his first hand knowledge of the Bay Shore School District and his accreditation as a secondary principal by the State of New York, "Mr. Mac" was the logical choice for principal of the new high school which opened in September of 1939. He retired from that position in June of 1962.

Aside from his many professional activities both locally and state wide, he had many community interests. He served as president of the Bay Shore Rotary Club, was a Sunday School teacher at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, an Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts, and was also involved in the United Fund and the Salvation Army among other community activities.

Bay Shore High School still stands as a monument to the educational and personal ideals that "Mr. Mac" brought to the school in his service and dedication to his staff, his kids, as he referred to the students, and his community. He always recognized that education in any community was a joint effort. His conservative quiet modesty never allowed him to take full credit for his own contribution to the Bay Shore schools.

In November of 1961, shortly before his retirement, the Middle States Association of College and Secondary Schools officially accredited Bay Shore High School. In its final report, the committee of experts conducting the survey expressed their findings with the following language: "You sense the climate that exists in this building as soon as you enter the door. This does not just happen. It is because of the rapport which exists between the administration and teaching staff and between the entire staff and the student body. This is something to be cherished, never let it slip away."

Mr. Mac married Phoebe Stewart in 1932 and they had two children: Jean who presently resides in Chelsea, Vermont and is a retired schoolteacher and Stewart, a Bay Shore attorney. Regretfully, Mr. Mac's retirement in 1962 was short and he died suddenly while on a fishing trip in Vermont on June 5, 1964.