



## *Dr. George H. Gatje*



Principal of Bay Shore High School from 1924-1939 and Superintendent of Schools from 1939 until his retirement in 1955, George Gatje was a native of New Jersey. His parents had immigrated from Germany in 1898 and ran a grocery store, but George's father saw the possibility for growth on Long Island and the family moved to Islip in 1905 and opened an oil business off Saxon Avenue.

George was one of the six members of the Islip High School Class of 1916. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1921 with a degree in chemical engineering and went to work for Standard Oil of New York (Socony-Mobil). After a year there he moved to Millbrook, New York where he taught math and science for two years (1922-1924) at a private academy.

In 1924 Bay Shore needed a High School Principal, and Dr. Floyd Hurlbut called on George, and he responded and returned to Long Island and assumed that position at age 24. He continued in that position until Dr. Hurlbut decided to retire coincident with the opening of the new high school on Third Avenue in 1939, and the Board of Education appointed George as superintendent. During the 1930's and early 1940's George did graduate work at Columbia University, obtaining his Masters and Doctors degrees in Education by 1942. His sister, Doris taught kindergarten at the Fifth Avenue School during the 1930's and 40's. He was district director of Civil Defense for Islip Township during World War II.

Dr. George Gatje married Marion Shand of Patchogue, a first grade teacher in Bay Shore, in 1930. They had two sons, Carlisle (BSHS 1948), and David (BSHS 1952).

Dr. Gatje retired in 1955 to become District Director of Internal Revenue in Albany, but left that position after six months. He did not care for the political atmosphere and returned to Bay Shore and took a position with Robert Bartley's civil engineering firm. In 1958, he obtained a Land Surveyors License, and was working toward his Professional Engineers Certificate when he died of a heart attack on January 2, 1960.