

J. W. Battershill Ends 47 Years As Engineer of East Kildonan

East Kildonan's engineer, J. W. Battershill, "quietly took his "shingle," as he called it, off the wall of his office at 5 o'clock Monday afternoon, thus terminating 47 years' continuous service with the city.

Mr. Battershill came to East Kildonan as municipal engineer April 26, 1914, and has filled that position with distinction throughout the years.

He is succeeded by Rod McRae, who has been assistant engineer since September, 1957.

Mr. Battershill went to work for East Kildonan shortly after it became a municipality. In fact it was at its inaugural meeting of March 16, 1914, where it was moved that the municipality advertise for an engineer at a salary of \$1,400 a year.

Three of the 18 men who applied for the job were interviewed and Mr. Battershill was selected.

Since that time he has seen East Kildonan grow from bald prairie to a city with hardly a vacant lot and boasting miles of paved streets and lanes.

One of the first jobs he undertook was the construction of a trunk sewer on Munroe avenue between Roch street and the Red River. This work was interrupted by the First World War but was completed the following year.

The planning and foresight used by this man in the construction of this sewer in the municipality's early days proved to be a godsend in later years.

Mr. Battershill recommended that the Munroe avenue trunk sewer be re-designed to a higher level than was originally planned prior to his arrival on the scene, so that it would eliminate back waters in the sewer during the summer.

This recommendation was made due to the construction of the St. Andrew's Locks and a slightly higher level of the river.

During the 1950 flood there was no flooding in the southern portion of East Kildonan, and when the sewer was cleaned out in 1953 for the first time, it was found to be in excellent condition.

For a number of years during the depression in the 1930's Mr. Battershill had become a "Jack-of-all-trades" as the financial condition of the municipality deteriorated. However, he accepted cheerfully the jobs of relief officer, fire chief, chimney inspector, building inspector, noxious weeds inspector, and a host of other duties.

Now that he has retired he will



J. W. BATTERSHILL



R. J. McRAE

at Bisley and won several medals. In 1958, although 72 years of age, Mr. Battershill visited Bisley again with the Canadian team and scored 49 out of 50 at 200 yards, 48 out of 50 at 600 yards, 34 out of 35 at 600 yards in the Queen's Match.

Two years ago, following 45 years of service, a testimonial dinner was held to honor Mr. Battershill when government and civic officials, and a host of friends gathered in public recognition and acknowledgment of the diligent and faithful service rendered by this unassuming gentle-