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Over Hill, Over Dale
 (Continued from page 2)
 However, in went the Curtain Club for the second time, sent along \$50.00 in a later communication, together with the name of their play, director, etc., and asked that a SCREENER view them before the closing date. So now a little about the screener.

This lady or gentleman is chosen by the Regional Festival Committee is asked to do the rounds of the Region entries who apparently would like to be screened on the last possible day, if not a day later. Accompanied by his shadow the FESTIVAL DIRECTOR, he sees each of these plays (in past years in all stages from people sitting about reading or "just having blocked the first act" all the way to a full production with lights, music and an audience. The screener was supposed to be able to judge which of the plays would be good enough six weeks later to be IN the festival. The rules now say "an advanced stage of production" . . . with the lines all learned and costumes on and set at least in the scale-model stage).

This year out of the forty odd clubs, thirteen applied to be screened, among them the Curtain Club. Mr. James Dean, screener, and Mr. William Cuttler, Festival Director saw the production of Clerambard at the Museum Theatre the last day of the screening, and afterwards Mr. Dean gave a private adjudication to the director and cast. Three days later (a set date) the Committee sent an official invitation to the club to enter the Festival at Hart House, being held January 6 to 10. Two of the six plays invited felt they could not manage and so withdrew, so we see a four-day festival.

We leave the Curtain Club and Clerambard rehearsing, polishing and enlarging (big stage Hart House) and go to the scene of activity where the Festival Committee (remember them?) are now in full swing. The program convenor cajoles the clubs for lists of full names to be handed in a little sooner than yesterday for the printer. The social convenor arranges for entertainment for the adjudicator, as well as welcome coffee and sandwiches in the green room for dress rehearsals, and for more delicate fare for the famous On-Stage parties opening and closing night, and for the opening night dinner for the club presidents, other regional representatives (sneaking a look at this adjudicator) and executives. The ticket convenor has problems of distribution and collection with (usually) six groups. The publicity department tries to get pictures and news into the newspapers, onto the air and TV. And backstage in the theatre itself the Hart House Stage Manager and Electrician prepare to cope with sets that don't fit, and crew that don't know how to put them up, and to produce lighting effects that will more than surpass the directors' dreams.

Finally THE first night is here and the winning group from the year before listens to the speeches, swallows twice and the curtains open and heaven help you, you're On. A Festival audience is different too. In the lobby is eager chatter as each one freely voices an opinion of this or that actor, piece of business, lighting or scenery. As the week draws on the conversation becomes more intense for there is very seldom a SURE THING. And each night there is a moment's silence after the play and then the curtains part and there he is, the Adjudicator, to give the criticism. If you disagree you say so in the lobby the next night. If he noticed some point you overlooked (ha) you point out in the lobby the next night how you had noticed it too. And all the time you wonder how he can hit the nail on the head, be so damning, be so constructive and above all Which One Will He Choose.

In the end nearly everyone seems to get an award of some kind, or at least a mention and that makes everyone happy to go back and do it again. Because after all, you learn so much from being in with the other clubs, and besides, it's only one man's opinion!

Nature Notes
 Why not start the new year with a new hobby? Contrary to popular belief the best time to begin to learn about birds in your own area is during the winter — when there are fewer species around to confuse you. Mr. F. R. Pammatt of Peterborough gives the following aid to bird identification and labels it the "S" system under six headings:
 (1) Size — General size (compare with sparrow, robin or crow). Length of bill, wings, legs, tail (important clue to family).
 (2) Sight — (Everything you see when you watch the bird). Predominant colour of the body; special markings: eye-ring, tail-bands, wing-bars, stripes and spots. Actions — walking, teetering, perching, manner of flight, etc.
 (3) Shape — General shape (chunky, slender, plump, bulky). Shape of wings, tail (especially hawks and swallows); shape of head (useful for owls and ducks); shape of bill (indicates type of food source).
 (4) Sound — Any noise made by the bird. Call-notes, song (especially warblers, sparrows, thrushes); characteristic sounds: twitter (swallows); rattle (Kingfisher), drumming (Grouse), screaming (hawks), etc. Learn songs of common birds from recordings if possible. Also learn to recognize the chatter of squirrels and chipmunks.
 (5) Site (Habitat). Note habitat where bird is seen (field, woods, marsh, etc.). Each species shows distinct preference during breeding season. Learn to know what species to expect in various habitats.
 (6) Season (and range). Has direct bearing on what birds are seen in your area. Classify as: Summer resident, winter resident, permanent resident, migrant. Many birds alter plumage in Fall

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1958 In Retrospect
Headford
 Always, as the old year ends and a new one unfolds, one looks back on the past year with mixed feelings — for some there are outstanding events, perhaps joyful, possibly some not quite so happy, for others, great changes will be remembered.
 A pleasantly mild January which ushered in 1958 had those of us in the church eagerly looking for our new minister, Rev. A. F. Binnington, M.A., B.D., S.T.M., who came to us from Napanee, but as if to show him the kind of happenings he might find in our part of the country, the weatherman did an "about face" and bared his teeth in a blizzard we shall all remember.
 As the rest of the winter passed on uneventfully, we think of the annual public speaking contest, originally started many years ago by the home and school association and now sponsored by the school trustees. The 1958 cup was won by Barbara McDonald. Lenten study and preparation under the new minister culminated in six new members for our church — Mr. and Mrs. Howie, Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson, and Austin and Albert Johnston were received into the church by profession of faith at Easter.
 Most farmers in this district will recall the past year for its wonderful seeding weather; and then they will think of the anxious time they spent hoping against hope, for the rains that did not come. And yet we had a very fair hay crop, and were astounded at the abundance of our grain harvest. How thankful we should be to live in such a wonderful country!
 June saw Ruth Clark and George Boynton married in our lovely old church, and Millie Willis was married at Thanksgiving time in October.
 The newlywed Boyntons had an extensive trip to the west; as also did Gwen and Merrill Johnson and Mary-Ellen. Gwen was thus enabled to visit with her mother and brothers, whom she had not seen for thirty-four years. Mr. Len Graham accompanied them. Other travellers were the Binningtons, who on their vacation in August, visited their daughter and her husband in New Jersey, and spent a little while in New York.
 July, of course, was highlighted by our vacation school — this year as always, with increasing attendance; and this year, also, as always, with perfect weather. In August also, the Middletons had a delightful guest from England — Mrs. Fendick, sister of Wes Middleton, who will surely become a private ambassador of our country! She regretted so much having to return home, and vows, D.V., she will be back again before long!
 Two graduations were quite meaningful to Headford folk — Marg Brodie from Teachers' College, and Elizabeth Barker, graduating with 1st class honors in November as a certified nurse's assistant. Margaret Brodie received an appointment to Crosby School. Before her graduation, Elizabeth had a memorable month in the San at Hamilton, where many many of her patients were Eskimos. She was the recipient of several of their soapstone carvings.
 October was saddened for some of us by the death of our oldest resident, Mrs. William Leuschner, almost two years after the sudden death of her husband. Also we must record the death of Mr. McTaggart of Orangeville, but formerly of Headford, whose wife Kay was for a while our organist. As the year was wearing on, there were quite a few happenings in our church — Howies had moved away during the summer and now the Tyndall family is to take up their farm at Victoria Square. The late fall saw

three new junior members join our choir, for which we were most happy and grateful — Susan Terry, Sharon Rumble and Norreen Simpson. John Rumble had joined the choir quite early in the year. Our church fence was permanently erected; and in the interests of safety, a broader step and better lighting at the door of the Sunday School. Also, we were most happy to welcome the Calder family earlier in the fall and the Harry Burtons and their family in December. December also gave us an event of spectacular interest to remember, when the beautiful barn on the McMahon property burned to the ground. Property damage was great, only partially covered by insurance; insufficient wiring was blamed for the fire.
 One could not wind up one's retrospective look at the year without a few personal commentaries. For instance, the awards, two firsts and two seconds for Mrs. George Barker, and a first for Mrs. Freeman Barker, at the nation-wide Gladiolus Show in August; Charlie Barker's second place ribbon for his carved tray at the C.N.E., and his first for woodworking and his second for wood carving at the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver.
 Also, one could not leave a backward look at 1958 without most sincere thanks to all those folk who so generously supported the campaigns for Cancer in the Spring, and in the Fall, the one for Retarded Children.
 Looking forward, we wish everyone a very happy New Year, and fervently hope the year of 1959 will hold much of gladness and well-being for the folk of Headford.

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