

# OH, THE HORROR! ROMERO

and the Horror Studies Collection at the  
University of Pittsburgh Library System

*A University of Pittsburgh Library System newsletter sharing  
Horror Collection updates, Romero news, horror genre events, and  
more.*

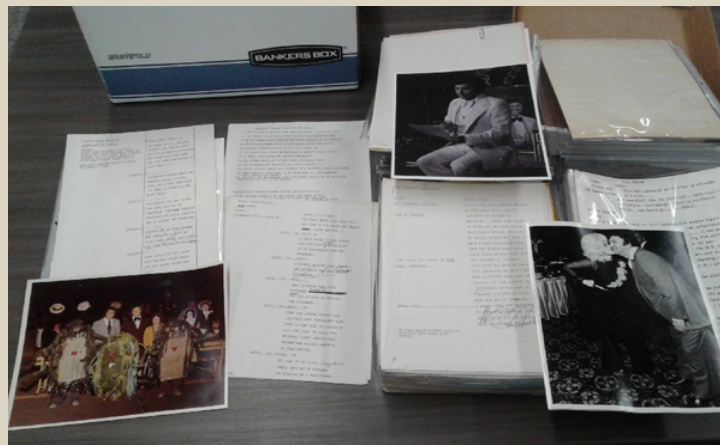
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## **A Note from the Collection Coordinator**

We hope you were able to enjoy and attend some of our spine-tingling events over the past month. Now, just in time for Halloween, we are excited to announce the addition of an important piece of Pittsburgh media history to our Horror Studies collections: the **William "Chilly Billy" Cardille Archive!** Cardille was at the forefront of the television age and helped define a new media landscape in Pittsburgh, becoming a beloved icon for many generations. As host of *Chiller Theater*, Chilly Billy brought horror to the masses and alongside George Romero made Pittsburgh a city of horror fans. Thus, it is fitting to know that their archives will live alongside one another in the ULS collections!

*- Ben Rubin, Horror Studies Collection Coordinator*

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## **SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW: The William "Chilly Billy" Cardille Archive Donated to the University of Pittsburgh Library System**

The University of Pittsburgh Library System is proud to announce the acquisition of the William Cardille archive for its growing Horror Studies Collections within Archives & Special Collections. The collection not only traces Cardille's radio and television career, it documents a slice of Pittsburgh's media and broadcasting history. Donated by Cardille's daughter, Lori Cardille, the collection contains

photographs, news clippings, awards, and memorabilia spanning Cardille's career as well as scripts from *Chiller Theater* when he played host as "Chilly Billy."

Cardille was an icon of the Pittsburgh media landscape for almost 60 years, with generations of Pittsburghers recognizing both his face and voice. Born on September 28, 1928, Cardille lived most of his life in Western Pennsylvania, growing up in the Sharon area, attending IUP, and living and working in the Pittsburgh region. He died in his McCandless home on July 21, 2016.

Cardille started his broadcasting career in radio in Indiana, Pa., in 1951 before moving to Erie to get his start in television. He came to Pittsburgh in the mid-50s and became a fixture of Pittsburgh television working for WPXI for almost 40 years. He was the first voice viewers heard when the channel went on the air on September 1, 1957 (then under the call letters WIIC). He served the station in a variety of capacities including as host of *Studio Wrestling*, the local host of the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy telethons (where he famously hosted for 24 hours straight on live TV), weatherman, and daytime anchor. He would stay with WPXI until his retirement in the early 1990s when he would return to radio until his death.

Cardille was perhaps most famous to Pittsburghers as Chilly Billy, the host of *Chiller Theater*. His show pioneered the concept of the horror host, paving the way for other hosts such as Joe Bob Briggs, Elvira, Svengoolie, and the crew from USA's *Up All Night*. Chilly Billy was known for his wry sense of humor expressed through often campy, slapstick skits and interludes between segments of public domain horror films broadcast on the show. *Chiller Theater* aired from 1963-1984 and was so popular in Pittsburgh that it delayed the local broadcast of *Saturday Night Live* for four years before WPXI gave in to NBC demands and moved it until after *SNL*. Cardille was a friend and supporter of George A. Romero and had a small role in *Night of the Living Dead*. The film was a frequent feature on *Chiller Theater* and Romero himself appeared as a guest. The show also featured a number of nationally known guests such as Phyllis Diller, Jerry Lewis, Lorne Green, Vincent Price, and Bruno Sammartino.

On her decision to donate the materials to the ULS, Ms. Cardille says:

"The Cardille family is proud to share Chilly Billy's pioneering career in early television as well as his huge

influence on the horror genre. To know that his work will be studied and used for years to come is truly an honor and a moving tribute for his family. We know that he would have been thrilled, more so than any statue or plaque could ever have provided. Bill Cardille was a creative and caring man who loved his family, his friends, his many fans, and of course Pittsburgh. We can think of no finer resting place for his archives than the Horror Center at the University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library."

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## Fresh Cuts from the Blog

Visiting scholar Adam Charles Hart shares freaky and fantastic behind-the-scenes highlights on our [Horror Studies website](#).



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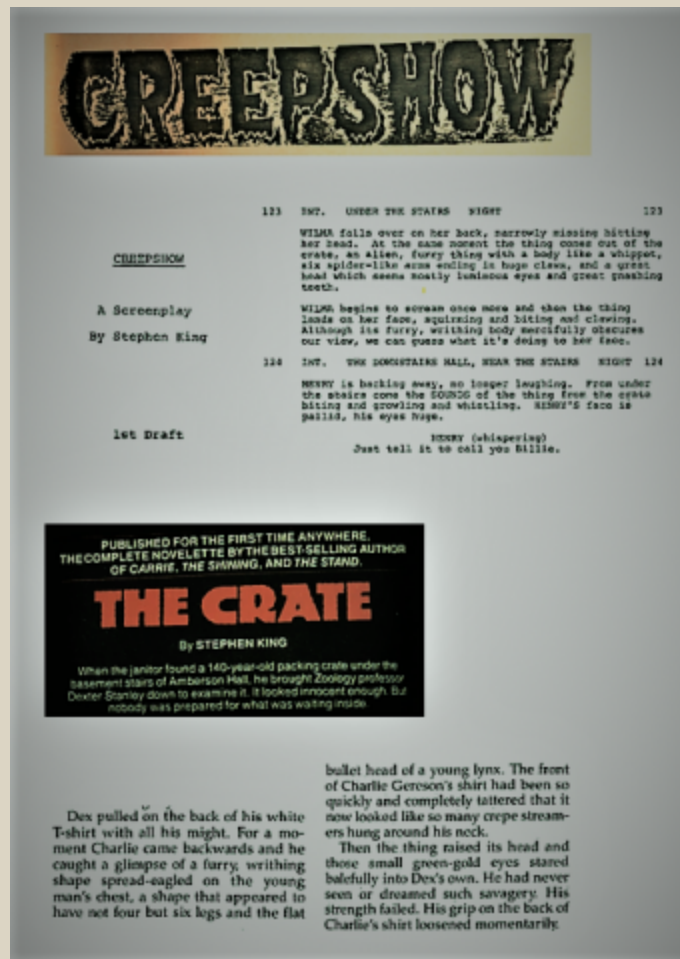
## Guest Post: Observations of *A Nightmare on Elm Street* draft script

*This essay was written by Mackenzie Morehouse, a local high school student completing an internship with Archives & Special Collections focusing on working with the Horror Studies Collections.*

*Elm Street* is a pop culture fixture that has been parodied uncountable times---the infamous image of Freddy's gloved hand leering up at us from between Nancy's legs continues

to stick in our collective cultural consciousness like the memory of a dream. There are certain scenes that even now are surprisingly brutal, especially from a franchise that would eventually give in to a very trademark kind of camp silliness. I knew going in that *Elm Street* holds up as a horror movie, but does it hold up under the new-age scrutiny of “elevated horror”?

Read more Observations of Elm Street



## Creepshow: Meteors and Monsters

It is no secret that George Romero and Stephen King enjoyed a close friendship and admired one another's work. This is perhaps to be expected from two of the most influential voices in horror. Their friendship and mutual admiration led them to many ambitious plans to collaborate on projects, perhaps the most successful of which was the anthology film *Creepshow* in 1982. An homage to the EC Comics of their childhoods, the film is a perfect example of blending horror and comedy and truly lived up to its tagline of 'the most fun you'll have being scared'.

[Read more about the Creepshow collaboration](#)

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## George A. Romero Foundation Updates

Keep an eye on the [GARF website](#) for news and updates about future programming!

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 [Forward](#)

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