

Short Subjects

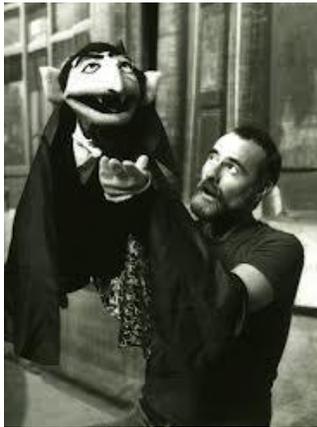
Voice of Sesame Street's "Count von Count" Dies

A veteran of over 40 years with the show takes his final bow.

Jerry Nelson, who voiced [Sesame Street](#) characters including "Count von Count" during over 40 years with the show, has passed away at age 78.

Nelson, who was a musician as well as an actor, joined *Sesame Street* in 1969, early in the show's run. He began playing major characters including the Count and others such as Mr. Snuffleupagus and Sherlock Hemlock. He also took part in many Muppet projects with Jim Henson, including the 1971 *Tales from Muppetland: The Frog Prince* to the 1980's *Fraggle Rock*, to *The Muppet Movie*.

The non-profit Sesame Street Workshop organization honored him on their [website](#) by saying, "He will forever be in our hearts and remembered for the artistry in his puppetry, his music, and the laughter he brought to children worldwide."



Depression-Era Photos from Library of Congress

Includes many candid photos showing depression-era costumes.

The Library of Congress recently announced its new collection of about 45,000 Great Depression-era photograph scans in the Farm Security Administration (FSA) collection. The call number code for this collection is [USF33](#).

Once there, you can add other search terms. Adding the keyword "contest" to the search winnows the list down to 142 pictures from all kinds of contests including corn-shucking, barrel rolling, top spinning, pie eating, goat roping, and burro loading.



Farmers at mechanical corn-husking contest, Hardin County, Iowa ([fsa.8a12739](#))

The result list includes a very small thumbnail, which is more than made up for by the thorough titles of the pictures and information about the date of the photograph and the photographer.

Click on a listing and you'll get additional details including rights information (this collection is pretty much freely available), call number, subject, and any notes. You can also download the picture in larger formats — anything from smallish JPGs to TIFs over 10MB in size.

Many of the shots are candid and it's easy to see the photographers had a true warmth for the subjects.

Horror for the Holidays: Meet the Anti-Santa

A story on National Public Radio in the U.S. tells of a creature who is anything but jolly.

According to a [story](#) on "Weekend Edition Saturday, a program of U.S. based National Public Radio, some parts of the world mark the dark side of the holidays with a creature who is the opposite to the image of a jolly Santa Clause.

The Krampus is a character from



European Alpine folklore, common in Austria and Switzerland. The creature stands on two hooves and has horns growing out of its skull. A very long tongue hangs out

of its mouth, and it carries a basket to haul away naughty children.

Although some parts of Austria celebrate Krampus day on the 6th, the 5th of December is traditionally the day that devil-like Krampus roam the streets punishing those for their bad doings throughout the year. They are often accompanied by St. Nicholas and can be found in parades in the evening.

According to the story, the Kramups has now arrived in the U.S., as people like Janet Finegar of Philadelphia organize Krampuslauf (a procession of people dressed as Krampus, walking through the streets with noisemakers) and create their own Krampus costumes of dried rib bones.



Photo by Peter Crimmins/WHYY.

Last year, Joseph Ragan also organized one in Portland, Ore., as a reaction to the way Christmas dominates the winter season. "Of all the 10,000 holidays that can be celebrated, we just have this one particular version of this one particular holiday really shoved down our throats for months at a time — in the most saccharine form."

The Krampus may also be a novel alternative to the costumes normally seen at sci-fi/fantasy conventions. What's next – Manga-Krampus? Steam-Krampus? The possibilities are endless – and frightening.

19th Century Woven Coverlets Photos Online

Photos from the collection of the historic Huguenot Street available online.

This marvelous collection explores the world of historic coverlets through photographs and related documents that tell their stories. The collection was made possible as part of a collaboration between the Dorsky Museum in New York and Historic Huguenot Street. The materials here are divided into five areas, including Historical Background, Installation Photographs, Types of Coverlets, and Carpet Weaving.



The "Historical Background" area is a great place to start. It includes five documents that tell about the history of these unique woven bed coverings and the techniques used to create them. Visitors also shouldn't miss the "Types of Coverlets" area, where they can learn about the various patterns and techniques used to create geometric, figured, and float work patterns. Finally, the "Historical Documents" area includes inventories of coverlets held by prominent persons in the Hudson Valley area during the early 19th century.

Visit the "Binary Visions: 19th-Century Woven Coverlets from the Collection of Historic Huguenot Street" [website](#) to view the collection.

Parting Shot

A photo that's too good not to use.

Sometimes, a story has a great leftover photo that deserves to be used, but there's no room or it's slightly off-topic and doesn't fit in. The article "Gill-man: The Last Universal Studios Monster" is a case in point.

When we see publicity photos of the Creature and the girl together, she's either acting terrified or passed out from fear. Here is a rare publicity photo from Ed Martinez's collection of Ben Chapman in his Creature costume and Julie Adams sharing a quiet moment on the set between takes.

