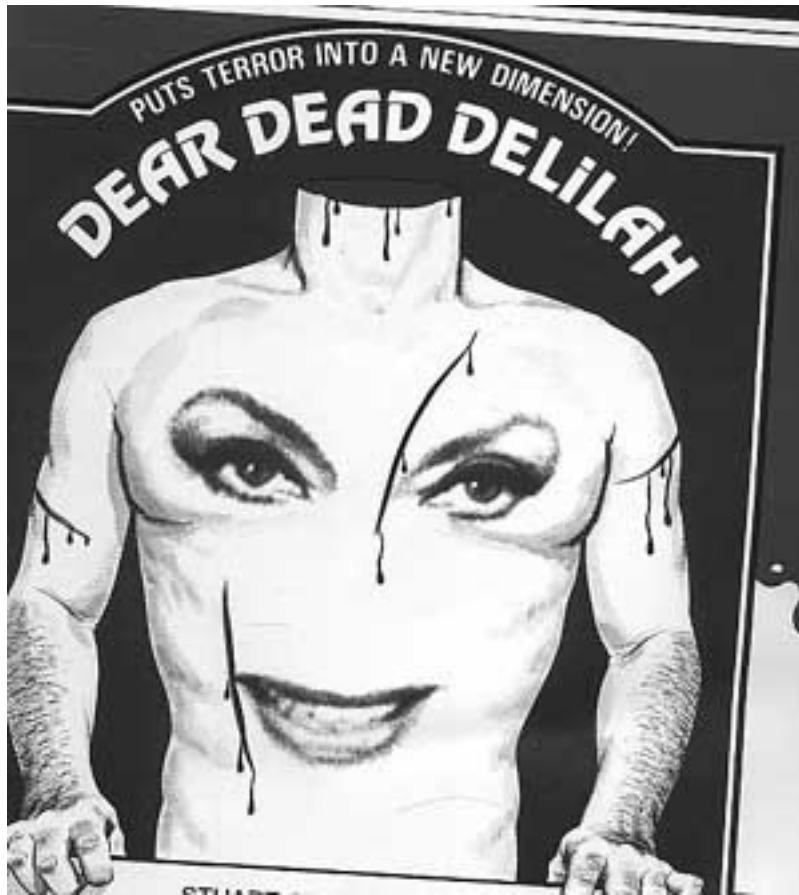
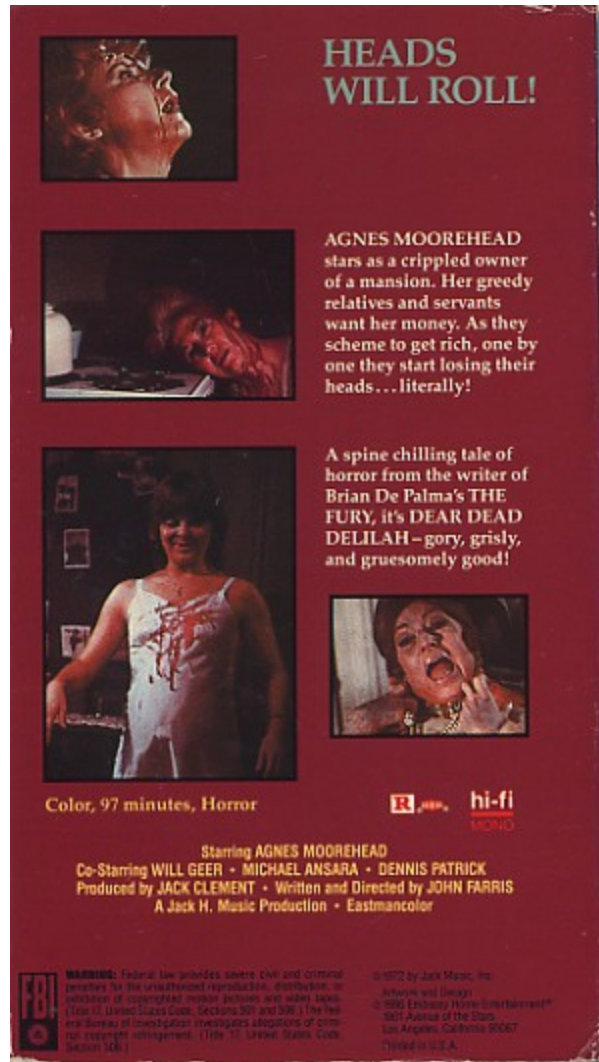


Unfortunately, Cowboy Jack dropped a small fortune via a venture into the movie business. His friend John Farris had written a gothic script about a dying matriarch in an old Southern mansion, in which an ax murderer was doing away with all the heirs. Clement was executive producer and Farris served as director of "Dear Dead Delilah." Their stars were Moorehead (a film veteran who had been Oscar-nominated five times, and won great success in the sitcom TV series Bewitched), actor-folksinger Will Geer and Michael Ansara from Broken Arrow fame.



It was originally budgeted at \$160,000 and ended up costing \$600,000, a very expensive course in filmmaking. I made about every mistake you could make, but my biggest mistake was hiring me as producer. We filmed it right here in Nashville, where I rented the an Belle Meade mansion. This guy supposedly was going to let us use it for free while he went off for three weeks to his place in Sun Valley. Well, he not only didn't leave, he stayed on to heckle us some and I ended up paying the guy some 25 grand.



The first mistake I'd made was I didn't put it in writing. It all went away. I made a deal with Southern Star Distributors in Atlanta, but the distributor screwed me. We were heavy into overtime shooting, everybody was exhausted and the director was breaking out in hives. Meanwhile, I was spending all my time raising money to pay for this thing. At the outset, I had about \$300,000 in my bank account, but ended up borrowing from Charley Pride, Jack Johnson and I even got my banker in on it. I paid 'em all back and even gave (the crew) bonuses at the end of production. For the most part, we did have a good cast. It was Agnes Moorehead's last film ... she was a wonderful woman and I stayed in touch with her until she died (in 1973).

[Trivia question: What was Agnes Moorehead's first film? Answer at bottom]

Building film sets has since become a passion for Clement: "I've become kind of a set architect. It started out as a hobby because I've always liked building ... I even built ukuleles. He calls his mockups Cowboy Jack Clement's Stage-In-A-Box. Prior to the Pride session in 1994, he built a nursing home set used in training tapes by DiversiCare, a nursing home chain. I've got flats, with windows and doors built in, that stretch out to 100 feet. They include six foot or 12 foot windows with working doors. He used one of the sets during his recent artist-in-residence run at the Country Music Foundation, as part of its Hall of Fame series in the Ford Theatre.



[Q: What was Agnes Moorehead's first film? A: Citizen Kane (1941)]