

We do not own the copyrights to many of the shows available on this site. We believe that copyrights for reprise productions of old productions have expired, and that many of the original shows are in the public domain because they were never copyrighted. We neither sell these recordings nor charge for access to our site. We are trying to bring the exciting world of radio to a new generation of listeners using the new technology of the Internet. We are not trying to deprive the original creators of any money due to them, and we will remove any recording from our site that is shown to violate a copyright.

For more information about permission to use original San Diego Radio Theater scripts, images or recordings, please call Michael Winn at (858) 245-0372, or,

Email: Michael@sandiegoradiotheater.com/copyrights.html

Copyright Notice

We do not own the copyrights to shows available on this site that are reprise productions of “old time radio” programs. We believe that the copyrights have expired or that the shows are in the public domain because they were never protected. We do not sell the recordings nor charge for access to our site. We are trying to bring the exciting world of radio to a new generation of listeners using the new technology of the Internet. We are not trying to deprive the original creators of any money due to them, and we will remove any recording from our site that is shown to violate a copyright.

Original “Radio Plays”, original musical scores and original “Adaptations” that were written either by or for members of the San Diego Radio Theater Ensemble are the property of either San Diego Radio Theater and/or individual ensemble members or creators of this material. For information about or permission to use any of this material, please send your request to:

info@sdrt.info

Below are links to information about the copyright protection for older radio programs. The information in this page is not meant to be legal advice. It is an overview of copyright issues involved:

Length of copyrights:
<http://www.unc.edu/~uncInG/public-d.htm>

General Old Time Radio copyright information:

<http://www22.brinkster.com/paradio/pages/lawj.htm>

<http://www.cni.org/Hforums/cni-copyright/swish.html>

(note: search for “Old Radio”)

<http://www.oldtimeradioprograms.com/copyrite.htm>

"we have checked with the Library of Congress regarding the status of old time radio recordings made prior to 1978, and have been informed by their staff that all such recordings are generally in the public domain, as sound recordings were not allowed under the previous copyright law and such recordings have not been granted copyright status under the new laws ex post facto. To remove a work from the public domain requires a court action."

<http://www22.brinkster.com/paradio/pages/flip.htm>

"...recordings presented here are within the Public Domain, since they were NOT qualified for copyright protection when broadcast, nor was any attempt to place them under such copyright protection made when the window of opportunity for such existed in 1978–1979 when the copyright law regarding such recordings changed. These had to be submitted for registration at that time. No U.S. broadcasts from 1929 through 1950 were filed with the exception of a few foreign language recordings which are not in our Collection."

<http://www22.brinkster.com/paradio/pages1/abandon.htm>

"Any lawsuit for copyright infringement needs to be brought about by the real parties in interest (the actual copyright holder or assignee), not on their behalf. Without a federally registered copyright (which automatically would carry a presumption of validity), the burden of proof is on the person bringing the lawsuit to prove that they own a valid copyright for the work."

"Although failure to register a copyright does not affect its validity, a copyright must be registered before an infringement action can be filed under current federal copyright law. Registration must be made within three months after publication or before the occurrence of an infringement in order for statutory damages and attorney's fees to be available to the plaintiff. Otherwise only actual damages may be awarded (17 USC §§ 411, 412)."

<http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1.html#hlc>

“Radio shows created before January 1, 1978 are protected by the Copyright Act of 1909 rather than the Copyright Act of 1976 because according to case law any copyright determinations must be made according the copyright law as it existed before that date.”

“Assuming the old time radio shows were in the public domain based on the Copyright Act of 1909, the update of 1976 could not remove them from the public domain—the public domain status of a work is not reversible.”