

Mayfield-James-20050505210002

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: James Mayfield

Comment:

I would like to respond to the comment made by Bill Corry (OW0064-Corry). The problem of defunct magazines is not limited to "The Desert Magazine," or even to magazines that have clear current commercial value. I recently found a book, long out of print, containing reprints of magazine articles from the 1940s. It appears to contain an article by my grandfather; the name is the same, and the topic is certainly something he could have written about. I purchased a copy from a used book store. I would like to reproduce the story to send to family and friends. However, I have no way to track down the publisher to find out the status of the copyright, and I certainly don't want to risk a lawsuit by disseminating the work. In talking with people about my problem, I've come across several who have old magazines that bear the same burden. It seems to be a broad problem with defunct magazines.