

Michael Burch  
11/28/2010

Federal law should place these recordings into the public domain. While a small percentage of these might be re-released as commercial recordings, most will never be re-released. Unless they are made public domain they will eventually be lost to all time. This does not serve the public interest. Important historical recordings which might be preserved by a historical society or library will become unavailable because finding and licensing from the original owner (if they still exist) will impossible in most cases. As a compromise there could be a limited (e.g. one year) window when the original owners could step forward and re-copyright them. But this must be on a case by case basis and not some vague blanket claim.