

Hunter's Clarion

A Publication of Hunter Library at Western Carolina University

from the University Librarian

by Bil Stahl

November 2006

I recently read *Sacred Stacks*, by Nancy K. Maxwell. Ms. Maxwell is an academic librarian. The basic premise of her work is that librarianship, like the ministry, is a calling and the two callings share many characteristics. Like most people, I enjoy reading books that reinforce ideas that I have held for some time. Ms. Maxwell has confirmed many of my suspicions with both anecdotes and hard data.

When I was in library school, librarianship had the highest percentage of people with seminary/ministerial degrees of any profession outside of the ministry itself. It also had a very large percentage of social work graduates. While there are various reasons for this, I feel certain a major reason is that librarianship is a giving profession. Most of the librarians I know truly see their role as helping others succeed. We are generally in the background, but we enable the scholar to get her work published or the student to earn a good grade on a research project. Recently, George Frizzell, the Head of Special Collections was acknowledged in Charles Frazier's latest bestseller, *Thirteen Moons*. George provided service without any expectation of the acknowledgment. At Hunter Library, a major goal is making the students feel truly welcome and supported at WCU.

There have been failed attempts to privatize public libraries and even an occasional idea to make an academic library a self-supporting entity. These have not succeeded because the type of service provided by libraries is extremely difficult to put a monetary value on. The value of the library is

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Marcella Huguelet Reconnects With Regional History Through Primary Sources

After a brief repose since retiring from the reference department of Hunter Library in 2004, Marcella Huguelet is back at work. Since early Fall 2006, she has labored diligently in Special Collections over a unique and interesting project—the creation of a centralized database of regional newspaper articles and files, from which the range of topics are truly panoramic.

The significance of such a project can easily be taken for granted, especially in an age when we are accustomed to finding a wealth of information at the click of a mouse. This does not always assure, however, that every detail of collective memory is documented; as Marcella explained, "There's a whole realm of information in these files, which has never been indexed...clippings going all the way back to the 1920s and 1930s, which has been maintained by Priscilla Proctor [Library Assistant in Special Collections] for years." Just as George Frizzell, Head of Special Collections,



Marcella Huguelet examines historic newspaper items from the early 20th century.

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The Civil War According to Lonnie Speer

by Brandon A. Robinson

If you visited Hunter Library at any time during Summer 2006, you almost certainly noticed the Civil War exhibit encompassing the main floor reception area. Assembled by Hunter's Display and Exhibits Committee, the exhibit comprised such themes as African-American, Mexican-American, and Native American soldiers; music and the performing arts during the 1860s; women's contributions to the war effort; and President Lincoln's war cabinet, brilliantly illuminated in Doris Kearns Goodwin's recent book, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Just in front of the Circulation Desk were two handsome wood-paneled cases with authentic and reproduced items from the period, on loan from the Mountain Heritage Center and from author and university staff member Lonnie Speer.

In a long conversation with Lonnie Speer after the exhibit, I enjoyed learning about his varied and active life, his several careers, his pursuits as a Civil War author and scholar, and his motivations for making his Civil War items available for Hunter patrons' view. Although he did not initially come to his subject as a writer, it has been a life-long passion: "I've been interested in history and writing probably since junior high school—American history in general and English. There were several teachers who helped and encouraged me." While these subjects would continue to shape his interests, Lonnie actually began his working life in criminal justice. He would eventually spend 30 years in police work, first in his native St. Louis, then later in Black Mountain, North Carolina. In later years, Lonnie began combining his historical and literary interests as a Civil War scholar.

Why is the Civil War still relevant? Lonnie says, "It had such an impact on American history—the number of deaths and struggles, and the views on slavery and others...it changed the course of American history, and affected every family in America in some way." Lonnie himself has traced some of his relatives to both sides of the conflict. His ancestors fought in divisions from Pennsylvania and Illinois, whereas his mother's family lived in Georgia during the war. "To some extent I know that some in the South are particularly tied to the Civil War, but growing up in the North, I did not hear it often mentioned," Lonnie explained. One early memory, however, did leave an impression: when he was seven years old, Lonnie's great aunt, who worked in a South Dakota nursing home, introduced him to a Civil War veteran who was almost 100 years old.

Lonnie wrote his first book, *Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War*, in 1997, a project requiring twelve years' preparation as he simultaneously worked as a police officer. In addition to poring

over countless newspapers, diaries and first-hand written accounts from guards, commandants and soldiers, Lonnie also visited Civil War prisons at Fort Delaware; Chicago; Salisbury, North Carolina; Andersonville, Georgia; as well as Albany and Elmira, New York. These experiences, augmented by access to university libraries and private archives, have given him a fair and balanced perspective on North and South—a balance Lonnie seeks to convey in his books and public talks across the nation.

In 2002, he published his second book, *War of Vengeance: Acts of Retaliation on the Civil War POWs*, which drew partly from material that did not fit into the framework of *Portals of Hell*. With additional resources



Lonnie Speer made his books and Civil War materials available for Hunter Library's display.

from the National Archives, Lonnie detailed the brutal treatment of prisoners-of-war, including many instances where they were killed outright upon being captured. Whether you were at a Union or Confederate camp did not really matter: "It was not necessarily a war fought by gentlemen, and not always as chivalrous as we are taught in junior and senior high school. It was much like other wars—before and after. Like the Revolutionary War and Mexican War, there was retaliation and suppressed anger."

Lonnie is presently working on a third book—this time, focusing on the treatment of African-American POWs during the war. After steady progress for three years, he plans to complete the manuscript soon.

What does one learn after more than a decade of researching, and a lifetime of reading and thinking about the Civil War? After all, Lonnie Speer has traveled to Miami, New Orleans, Kansas City, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, New York State

and Georgia, for roundtable discussions and presentations. During our conversation, Lonnie most often stressed war's essentially amoral nature: "War is the same throughout all periods of history; what changes is the weaponry, and to some extent the volume of munitions. But the psychosis remains the same." He also suggested that America's collective consciousness of the war is more romantic than an educated person would like to think. "There's still a lot of passionate attention to the battlefields, but to the *struggle* itself, I don't believe so...I think most of the passion is toward the historical aspect—such as preserving the battlefields." Perhaps more important today are the cultural ramifications from slavery and Reconstruction; as early as 1903, W.E.B. DuBois prophetically asserted in *The Souls of Black Folk* that "the problem of the 20th Century is the problem of the color line."

Although Lonnie Speer is not an academic historian, he does not feel that this has been much of an obstacle. "I've been very fortunate that both books have been alternative choices for historical book clubs, and I've had a lot of professors praise me, but I feel to some extent that my lack of a history degree has had its consequences. I can't complain too much, though." In addition to being "generally well-received" when traveling and speaking, Lonnie has also been honored

with the office of Vice President of the Salisbury Prison Association—a conference that educates the public about the circumstances of Civil War prisoners, and brings together every year descendants of both the prisoners and prison guards.

Among the display items he lent to Hunter Library's Civil War exhibit are authentic bullets and a bayonet, both of which were dug up by a friend of his at what was originally a training camp near St. Louis. The saber and cap he acquired from museums as replicas. "These are more interesting on display than sitting at my house, and I thought the students would like to see the items; I want to be able to assist anyone who would be interested in the topic," Lonnie says.

I have no doubt that Lonnie Speer will continue to illuminate the struggle for what President Lincoln called "the last best hope of earth" through subsequent books, articles, lectures and historical colloquia. On behalf of Hunter Library and its Display and Exhibits Committee, I thank him for bringing our collective past much closer to home for our patrons and community.

***If you have a unique and interesting collection that you would like featured in one of Hunter Library's displays, please contact Alessia Zanin-Yost at 828-227-3398.*

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From the University Librarian...

not that it is simply a collection of needed books and magazines with workers who just locate specific titles. Good libraries are not primarily about collections. A good library has good collections because the librarians know the needs of their clientele well. But a good library is good primarily because of the services it provides. And these services don't lend themselves to cost benefit calculations.

The challenge for libraries now is defining the boundaries of our services. Given the expertise library staff has in many areas and the resources libraries control, what problems do we help our clients solve and which are out of our scope? Our implementation of the reference librarian liaison has opened many possibilities for expanding library services that uniquely fit the needs of specific academic programs. Hunter Library's Crafts Revival grant project has moved the library beyond just collecting materials and making them accessible to actually creating new content. Likewise, as we move into the area of metadata (data about data) support, the library staff will be assisting faculty in managing information that may or may not be part of the library's collections.

A recent example of expanding our role is that the library has acquired information management software, *RefWorks*, so that all students and faculty can keep track of their readings and references with notes, etc. This software is a greatly enhanced version of the 3 X 5 index cards some of us used to do research papers. It could be argued that providing this software is not a library responsibility. However, the library saw that providing this tool fit its overall mission and supports the University's emphasis on synthetical learning. This software will help students pull together and analyze their overall educational experience by allowing them to easily maintain a list, with notes, of all the readings (including web sites) they have used throughout their academic studies.

While the boundaries of library services will continue to get fuzzier and fuzzier, the underlying calling of librarianship will not diminish or change. I am confident that the librarians at Hunter will continue to develop new services enabling our students and faculty to be successful in the rapidly changing information environment.

Thinking of Donating to Hunter Library?

By Heath Martin, Collection Development Librarian

Every year, Hunter Library receives generous donations—books, films, music, and more—from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the community. Monetary gifts to be used toward purchase of needed library materials often are received as well. This spirit of giving and support is a tremendous asset to the library. And because Hunter Library serves everyone here at Western, the entire campus community benefits directly from needed materials added to the library collections.

This same mission to serve Western Carolina University requires Hunter Library to consider carefully all prospective donations. While we are grateful for any interest in donating to the library, we can accept only those items currently needed and consistent with the library's collection priorities. Our policy on accepting donations can be viewed by visiting our collection development gift policy at <http://www.wcu.edu/library/about/departments/collectiondevelopment/colldevpolicy.htm#gifts>.

When deciding if your donation includes materials the library can use, it is especially helpful to bring a list of the items you have to offer. Working from this list will ensure that you do not take the trouble to bring your donation to the library only to find that the materials cannot be used. It will also speed up the process of reviewing your donation and help to conserve staff resources in the library.

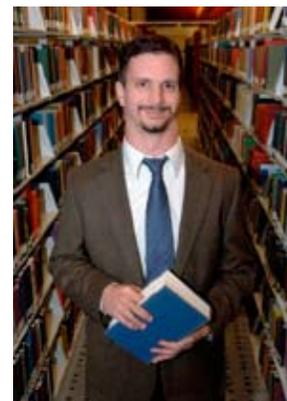
If you have a donation you would like us to consider, please give us a call at 828-227-7357 or send an email to Heath Martin, Collection Development Librarian, at hmartin@wcu.edu. For those items we can

add to the collection, in addition to our thanks on behalf of the university community, we will be happy to send you a letter acknowledging the donation.

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer appraisal on items you wish to donate. For information on book assessment and appraisal, we recommend visiting the Q&A on this topic on the Association of College and Research Libraries website (<http://www.rbms.info/yob.html>). If you would like to learn about possible tax deductions associated with donating books, you may want to consult the source by looking at the guidelines offered by the Internal Revenue Service at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p561.pdf> (Adobe Acrobat Reader required).

If your donation cannot be used in Hunter Library, there are many other organizations and programs that might provide alternatives. In addition to inquiring with other local libraries or charitable organizations, we recommend checking out the American Library Association's helpful fact sheet (<http://www.ala/alalibrary/libraryfactsheet/alalibraryfactsheet12.htm>). The National Book Foundation also keeps a listing of potential donation recipients on its website (<http://www.nationalbook.org/bookdonations.html>).

We hope this information helps you as you consider a donation to Hunter Library. If you have additional questions on donating, do not hesitate to let us know.



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Marcella Huguelet...

and Priscilla Proctor's expertise has preserved these files, Marcella's reference background has helped make this collection more accessible to the patron and researcher. "Because I was in Reference, I knew the kinds of questions people ask about this kind of material."

Looking over Marcella's materials—from such local sources as the *Sylva Herald*, the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, the *Franklin Press*, and Western's first student paper, the *Cullowhee Yodel*—one feels the intimate pulse of Western North Carolina as it reacts to national and regional events. Here are eyewitness accounts on the cultural changes from the 1920s; regional opinions on the Tennessee Valley Authority and other New Deal programs; reactions to the death of author Thomas Wolfe; and articles on such topics as floods, the Jackson County

Airport, and native folk music. Marcella says, "It's fun because it's not after the fact, but as it's happening; you get a feel for what people were thinking, saying and doing at different periods."

One theme is particularly strengthened by pre-existing materials: Cherokee history and culture. George Frizzell, who earned master's degrees in both history and library science, contributed his extensive thesis notes on the topic—which, covering virtually every reference to the Cherokee people from Jackson County newspapers, are invaluable indicators of perspectives on Native Americans in the early 20th Century. Marcella was able to verify the dates of all these entries using the microfilm collections at Hunter Library.

The path of historical inquiry is often paved by

Staff Picks Coming to a Shelf Near You

By Kitty Taylor and Serenity Richards

In October 2006, Hunter Library launched a new feature focusing on staff picks geared towards a variety of library patrons. In its initial phase, library employees have reviewed and recommended titles from the Leisure Reading collection which includes an assortment of genres such as horror, romance, science fiction, and current nonfiction. Ranging from books on crochet to political satire, Leisure Reading can be viewed as a gateway to the library and easily accessible to all users.

As this new feature develops, Hunter Library intends to work with the university community to highlight books of both academic and general interest. Faculty members will be given the opportunity to recommend texts within their area of instruction, and student groups will be able to offer insight on suggested titles that draw attention to an array of current issues and trends. The library will benefit from a balanced level of input by allowing the interests of both the instructors and the instructed to be highlighted in its collection.

Hunter Library's Leisure Reading collection is located on the main floor, convenient to Java City Café. Grab a cup of coffee and browse through the shelves to find a great weekend read. If you've been meaning to pick up a Dean Koontz novel, or if you are interested in the questionable interior home design of the 1970s, you'll be able to find that and more in our Leisure Reading collection.

Staff picks will be noted within the collection and will change on a monthly basis. Current Staff Picks include:

Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis, by President Jimmy Carter
N Car Our 2005

Marley & Me: Live and Love with the World's Worst Dog, by John Grogan
N Gro Mar 2005

Interior Desecrations: Hideous Homes from the Horrible '70's, by James Lileks
N Lil Int 2004

Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason, by Nancy Pearl
N Pea Boo 2003



Hunter Library's Kitty Taylor (left) and Serenity Richards are coordinating the "Staff Picks" program for our patrons.

A suggestion box pertaining to Leisure Reading and Staff Picks is located in the Leisure Reading area of the library on the main floor. Keep your eyes on the shelves for suggested reading, both entertaining and educational.

serendipitous stones. Marcella has often expressed surprise over her findings: "I learned, for example that Thomas Edison came through here for some kind of mineral for his car battery; he stayed in Webster, I believe." Among miscellaneous entries are also student comments and complaints about dorm life, mandatory chapel, and student government when WCU was Western Carolina Teachers College.

At present, Marcella is working on Western alumni bulletins dating back to the 1950s; while this is very much a work-in-progress, it has already proven useful. George Frizzell commented, "I answered a question the other day from the Alumni Association, using the project Marcella put together." Marcella added, "I know that Becky Kornegay, Head of Reference, and the reference department have

used it as well." One of the alumni profiles was of LaVerne Allen, one of the first African-Americans to integrate Western during the 1950s; Allen had recently returned to her alma mater to receive an honorary degree and address the August 2006 commencement assembly.

Both George and Marcella anticipate that this local newspaper database will be a useful research tool. Marcella expressed her hope that it will be "available to patrons so that faculty, history faculty especially, and other people will know that this is available...the main thing is making what George and Priscilla have been doing available to more people."

* The newspaper database is currently available online. Please consult a reference librarian for assistance (828-227-7465).

Libraries for a Millennial Generation: A Dialogue-in-Progress

By Brandon A. Robinson

Have you ever wondered what librarians talk about behind closed doors? If so, you would definitely find meetings of the Western North Carolina Library Network (WNCLN) quite engaging. At these, library faculty and staff from Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville discuss cutting edge issues of librarianship, and their efforts to enhance patron services such as “ABC Express,” the transit of library materials among the three campuses.

Just before the fall 2006 semester, WNCLN met in the Ramsey Center’s Hospitality Room at Western. The framework of the rich ensuing dialogue was Peter Senge’s book, *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization*, mentioned by UNCA’s University Librarian, Jim Kuhlman. According to Jim, Senge’s thesis is that very often, “assumptions block possibilities of a group of colleagues from seeing each other as a team.” Saying that “to engage in dialogue takes practice,” he urged the need to “improve our understanding and how we implement change...it is not merely efficiency regarding time as it is focusing on the right things.”

As librarians attempt, at once, to suspend assumptions *and* reach consensus, they are also engaging the challenge of making their resources and services relevant to the “millennial” generation. Mark Stoffan, WNCLN’s network administrator, described millennials—that is, our current traditional undergraduates—as “those who look at things in a radically different way.” “Instead of an ordered pattern, they flail around to find what they’re looking for; they often do this in groups, rather than as individuals.” Jill Ellern, Hunter’s Systems Librarian, pursued this point and stressed that “it’s all about marketing; we often assume that because we are a library, the students will automatically come to us to get

the information. We need to get out there.”

While innovative programs in distance learning have certainly affected use of the library as place, Mary Reichel, ASU’s University Librarian, mentioned that studies indicate a general decrease in library use; nonetheless, “One of my assumptions is that people should use libraries. I assume that we are important.” This was perhaps the only assumption universally agreed upon, though libraries as a whole must address the challenges from a generation that not only seeks information differently, but *relates* to it differently.

Heath Martin, Hunter’s Collection Development Librarian, addressed this concern by discussing a variety of library models based on services pertaining to information literacy and student research needs. Hunter’s Assistant Head of Cataloging, Hiddy Morgan, moreover suggested, “It would be nice if classes have a package that articulates what the library offers for research—for incoming students—that would make it easier for the first two years of college.”

For Bil Stahl, Hunter’s University Librarian, a “root cause analysis” is useful when seeking to define the role of an academic library. Exploring possibilities such as shifting from collections to service, and expanding services across campus and outside of the physical library, he asserted that serving the entirety of the institution—the University—is crucial. “Libraries have a history of being a neutral territory in the academy—and if that is realized, it can do a lot of things that no single college, within the University, can do.”

Attended by approximately 25 faculty and staff from all three libraries, the WNCLN retreat was truly a forum for ideas. Other issues, such as library relationships with faculty and academic departments, are also on the table, but no doubt, the “mountain libraries” in the UNC system are scaling millennial peaks.

Renewal of Craft Revival Grant

By Brandon A. Robinson

Hunter Library’s current digitization endeavor, “The Craft Revival: Shaping Western North Carolina Past and Present,” received last summer its grant renewal of \$126,000 for the second year. At that time the project had comprised 182 digital entries, representing 220 image scans; near the end of Fall 2006, these numbers stood at 296 and 678 (and counting), respectively. These entries include photographs, handmade items, oral histories and other documents from the Craft Revival Period—from the 1890s to the 1940s.

The Craft Revival Grant is a three-year project, eligible for a possible total of a quarter of a million dollars. Collaborating on this project are five heritage partners: the John C. Campbell Folk School; the Penland School of Crafts; the Southern Highland Craft Guild; Western Carolina University’s Mountain Heritage Center; and Hunter Library’s Special Collections unit.



PROFILES

Bart Voskuil *by Brandon A. Robinson*



Bart Voskuil, Hunter Library's newest faculty member, accepted the Reference Librarian/Environmental and Geosciences Liaison position last May. In addition to his goal of providing "useful reference service" to patrons, Bart aspires to "placing the geosciences collection in a better position to help students through additions to both print and electronic resources."

Bart is a native of Green Bay, Wisconsin. During his undergraduate days at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, he majored in French and humanistic studies, and developed strong interests in foreign languages. In addition to French, he has also studied Spanish and Dutch. After graduation he earned his M.L.I.S.

from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and began his library career as a reference librarian at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

Bart later accepted a position as a branch manager of a public library in Laredo, Texas, on the U.S.-Mexico border. He then worked for a couple years in his native Green Bay as a technical librarian for an engineering firm. In addition to reference consultation, he also handled cataloging operations and became interested in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a field that would inform future stages of his professional life. This new interest, along with an interest in urban planning, materialized during the year he spent teaching French and literature at a private academy in Rochester, Minnesota, following his engineering library experience.

Bart returned to the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, where he worked as a project assistant in the architecture and urban planning school while earning a graduate certificate in Geographic Information Systems. After completing this study he came to Hunter Library.

Reflecting on his first few months at Western, Bart explored the possibilities in integrating library and curriculum: "A GIS can be used to display and analyze any type of spatial data. We should explore how Hunter Library's geosciences collection can serve other departments—not only geosciences, but also criminal justice, history and the social sciences, for example. There's a lot of interest in expanding our collection and obtaining more digital information, such as aerial photos and satellite imagery."

Bart is a lifelong bicyclist and motorcycle enthusiast. In addition to these interests and reading, he is also a viola performer for the Western North Carolina Civic Orchestra.

Read Banned Books: They're Your Ticket to Freedom...Admit One Free Reader

By Brandon A. Robinson

You can't judge a book by its cover, but you can certainly ban it! During and after Banned Books/Intellectual Freedom Week last September, Hunter patrons saw, despite an era of ideological cleavages, a unique bi-partisanship: quotes from several U.S. Presidents on poster boards, addressing intellectual freedom. Ranging from New Deal-liberal Franklin D. Roosevelt, to supply-side conservative Ronald Reagan, these quotes illustrated a Presidential consensus on the primacy of a free press and marketplace of ideas.

The quotes, along with a display by history professor Laura Cruz and her students, and a book truck filled with previously banned or challenged books, were spread across the library's main floor. Any patron browsing in our newspaper section could see the Reagan quote: "A free press is a cornerstone of our democracy. We Americans cherish our freedom of expression and our access to multiple sources of news and informa-

tion." Very pertinent to the display itself was Dwight D. Eisenhower's warning: "Don't join the book burners. Don't think you are going to conceal thoughts by concealing evidence that they ever existed."

Other Presidential quotes included:

"If in other lands the press and books and literature of all kinds are censored, we must redouble our efforts here to keep it free."—Franklin D. Roosevelt

"...a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation afraid of its own people."—John F. Kennedy

As this article's title intimates, this year's American Library Association's theme was that of a circus. A medley of ALA materials, personal belongings on loan from Laura Cruz, and books from our collection,

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"Reading all the great books is like a conversation with the finest people of the past centuries." Rene Descartes

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banned books...

readily drew patron attention; and the titles from the book truck did not stay there long! These courageous readers encountered the epic verse of Homer; the cynical dissimulation of Machiavelli; the then-radical racial views of Harriet Beecher Stowe; and the psychological undertones of Kate Chopin! Whatever the tome, we hope our patrons will follow Sir Francis Bacon's advice: "Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider."

HUNTER LIBRARY HOURS

Spring Semester 2007

Mon. - Thurs.	7:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	Noon to 1:00 a.m.

Java City at Hunter Library

Mon. - Thurs.	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday & Sunday



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Hunter's Clarion

<http://www.wcu.edu/library/about/CLARION/index.htm>

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