

A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA

W E S T V I E W



Volume 25
Issue 2 Fall/Winter

Article 28

11-15-2006

Max Longstreet, Gambler, Speculates on the Death of Reverend Burden

Robert Cooperman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cooperman, Robert (2006) "Max Longstreet, Gambler, Speculates on the Death of Reverend Burden," *Westview*: Vol. 25 : Iss. 2 , Article 28.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol25/iss2/28>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



Max Longstreet, Gambler, Speculates on the Death of Reverend Burden

by Robert Cooperman

I've turned
his unfortunate demise
to profit, taking bets
on whose hand shoved him
from this world.

My pick?
Sheriff Dennehy,
though it makes
no difference to me
who Our Law kills
so long as I run
my honest faro table.

Whenever Widow Burden's
within pissing distance,
he tips his hat, smiles
greasy as a bear
about to make a meal
of a prime doe.

Even that colored
boarding house owner
laid a bet.
"Accident!" she chimed
simple enough to believe
Burden slipped.

Preacher would've burned
her out, for sure,
if not for her partner,
John Sprockett.

He recites poetry
to her of an evening,
though I doubt
she understands
a word
of his nonsense.

