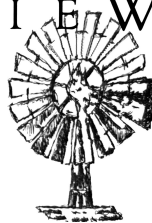


A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA

WESTVIEW



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Volume 20  
Issue 1 Fall/Winter

Article 22

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11-15-2000

## Trying to Understand Bad Luck

Ryan G. Van Cleave

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### Recommended Citation

Van Cleave, Ryan G. (2000) "Trying to Understand Bad Luck," *Westview*: Vol. 20 : Iss. 1 , Article 22.  
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# Trying to Understand Bad Luck

by Ryan G. Van Cleave

Think of all luck  
As a gap-toothed grandpa  
Whose skin is two sizes too big  
Both eyes little more than cataracts  
And he's throwing a game of darts

Bullseyes are terribly scarce  
And numbers too low to matter  
Are all he can usually manage  
But the occasional double twenty  
Or triple sixteen still get hit

So when every little thing  
Seems destined to go against you  
Just imagine that the dart tips  
Are too blunt to stick any longer

Listen—you can hear him fumbling  
For a sharpening stone



*Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall*

