Differential diagnosis

BY E. KENNETH WEIR, MD

The boots still showed
the dirt of South Dakota.
The gravel in his voice
sprang from that soil.

“It hurts here.” A finger
pointed center shirt.
Exercise? “Not much
except Bull Poker.”

Bull Poker? “A hundred dollars
on the forehead of the bull;
him with the fastest feet,
quickest grab gets the dough.

“No. There’s no pain when
I ride the bull, though.
I’m hells focused then.”
Nitro? “No nitro, just vodka neat.

“No heart problem? Thanks, Doc,
but why the pain?
Oh no, not the drink.
The day I quit, I quit the game.”

E. Kenneth Weir retired as chief of cardiology at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in 2008. He is currently on the faculty of the University of Minnesota doing research part-time.