

Three times he tried to get the nomination for state senator, but failed. Once he was beaten in a race for a congressional nomination.

But Orville Hubbard studied these setbacks. He regarded them as part of his political education. And today he is one of the sharpest, most unbeatable politicians in local government.

Instead of blaming luck, research those setbacks. If you lose, learn. Lots of folks go through life explaining their mediocrity with "hard luck," "tough luck," "sour luck," "bad luck." These people are still like children, immature, searching for sympathy. Without realizing it, they fail to see opportunities to grow bigger, stronger, more self-reliant.

Stop blaming luck. Blaming luck never got anyone where he wanted to go.

A friend who is a literary consultant, writer, and critic chatted with me recently about what it takes to be a successful writer.

"A lot of would-be writers," he explained, "simply aren't serious about wanting to write. They try for a little while but give it up when they discover there is real work involved. I haven't much patience with these people because they're looking for a shortcut and there just isn't one.

"But," he went on, "I don't want to imply that pure persistence is enough. The plain truth is, often it isn't.

"Just now I'm working with a fellow who's written sixty-two short fiction pieces but hasn't sold one. Obviously, he is persistent in his goal to become a writer. But this fellow's problem is that he uses the same basic approach in everything he writes. He's developed a hard format for his stories. He has never experimented with his material—his plots and characters, and perhaps