

THE ALERT BOSS AND FAIR CLERK

ANIL

Perth, Australia

My tribute to the Ecklers in February (07-9) was a real rush job with about one day's notice. I'd now like to extend that tribute with an unusually fitting logological twist. The title above is an anagram of the names ALBERT ROSS AND FAITH ECKLER. It captures and evaluates each of their essential roles in thirty-seven years at the helm of Word Ways. "Fair" of course does *not* mean mediocre but scrupulously just at the same time as meaning lovely. I know her to be both. She is conscientiously honest and fair at her "job" as well as being charming. "Clerk" might also seem to some to be less flattering than Faith the Fair deserves, yet it does more or less describe her crucial managerial role as bookkeeper. But she's no mouse and might object to calling Ross the Boss! Might we to save their long marriage need to ascribe the whole title to Faith alone? I'd say not: she's alert all right but she isn't Faith alone, she's also Hope and Charity and would surely not mind at least *calling* Ross the Boss. (Recall the line in "Subwords" in May 07-162 where **Faith heeling** was defined as blind obedience to one's religious leader.) I'm being presumptuous pretending to know Faith well, but one meeting and the occasional correspondence are entirely consistent with all the non-flippant remarks above.

Amazingly, this anagram fell into place in just a few seconds. It's clear why it came so easily: the first five words are 'kangaroos'—the letters occur in their correct order; only the sixth is scrambled, but even it is sort of a twice-through kangaroo [$R^{\dots}C_K^{LE}$]. Alternatively, the second and third R's can be applied to the fifth and sixth words respectively instead of vice versa. In that case the fifth is a cyclic permutation and the sixth a right-facing 'ostrich'* with the last letter buried [C_K^{LER}]. (* Kickshaws 07-60)

ALBERT ROSS AND FAITH **ECKLER**
ALBERT ROSS AND FAITH ECKLER
ALBERT **ROSS** AND FAITH ECKLER
ALBERT ROSS **AND** FAITH ECKLER
ALBERT ROSS AND **FAITH** ECKLER or ALBERT **ROSS** AND **FAITH** ECKLER
ALBERT **ROSS** AND FAITH **ECKLER** or ALBERT ROSS AND FAITH **ECKLER**

I feel lucky to have discovered this gem and regret that it didn't come in time for the festschrift issue. But it couldn't have. It was inspired therein by Susan Thorpe's (07-13, 66) and Darryl Francis' (07-24) many transposals, etc, of various Eckler names. (Both found the key word **clerk** but didn't relate it to Business Manager.) Their efforts led me to try to anagram this particular permutation of the names just because it seemed to be the only combination they didn't try!