

“ALBATROSS” ECKLER: A Belated Tribute

ANIL

Perth, Australia

This eulogy for a eu-logologist, sent to Kickshaws Jan.'17, was unused. It's still and forever timely.

Albert Ross Eckler, our wonderful editor for so many years, truly resembled this tired old punny sobriquet. He had a huge wingspan and flew above all of logology, carrying the journey over a long distance and in many directions. I have little to add to the very informative obituary in the Feb 2017 WW, except one more voice of praise for the master guru of logology, author, editor, and seeker out of new directions for word play. To me he was a mentor as well, and an encyclopedia of the genre, often and unselfishly pointing me to predecessors of my ideas as well as adding insights and suggestions. Like Martin Gardner, he tirelessly answered all his mail and strove to aid and encourage all would-be wordsmiths. I owe much to this gentle giant.

My sincere sympathy goes out to Faith, who backed him all the way and enabled him to make such an unequalled contribution. I'm privileged to have known them.

