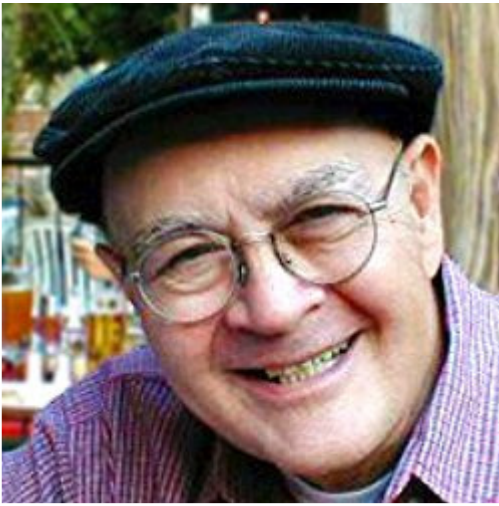


Myles Callum, April 4, 1934 – April 21, 2022



I'm sad to report on the death of my friend and mentor, Myles Callum, at his home in Santa Rosa, California. He was 88. In his last years, he struggled with COPD, which made it hard for him to travel and meet with friends in the San Francisco Bay Area. But he stayed active in crosswords, both as a constructor and solver.

In the 1950s, Myles served with the U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps (also called the Army CIC) and worked as a private investigator. For most of his career, he was a magazine editor. He was a member of Mensa, the U.S. Chess Federation, and the National Puzzlers' League.

After a stint with *Good Housekeeping*, Myles became a managing editor for *Better Homes and Gardens*, and then spent 20 years at *TV Guide*, where he wrote up new shows for the popular Fall Preview issue and also had a movie column. He authored a book on fitness, *Body Building and Self Defense* (1962) and once appeared on *To Tell the Truth* impersonating a kendo expert. All the while he was active in making crosswords and other word puzzles. In 2012, he published *Famous Examples*, a wonderful collection of fascinating trivia (some of which gave me ideas for my own puzzle themes).

Myles published many books of crosswords, word search puzzles, and other varieties, often without attribution, but a few of which can still be found on Amazon under his name. He stayed very active into his 80s, telling me in one email that he had gigs to produce 202 crosswords in 2019. He often did batches of themed crosswords, such as a *Wheel of Fortune* book with puzzles keyed to that show. His puzzles appeared in just about every market for crosswords, and he "hit for the cycle" (creating puzzles for each day of the week) with the *New York Times*.

Shortly after *Famous Examples*, he told me he had made a Rows Garden puzzle, which seemed like an impossible feat to me. But he showed me his puzzle and told me in detail how he achieved it. This led to a wonderful collaboration, as we exchanged Rows Gardens with each other, just for the pleasure of making the puzzles. When I later launched Garden Party Crosswords, Myles was there to encourage me, and over the years he test-solved hundreds of Rows Gardens, offering me advice and suggestions for improvement.

Myles's two daughters, Deborah and Jennifer, were with him at the end, and they told me they have found a good home for his beloved parrot, Cheeky! I'm going to hold onto many warm memories of my time with this wonderful man.