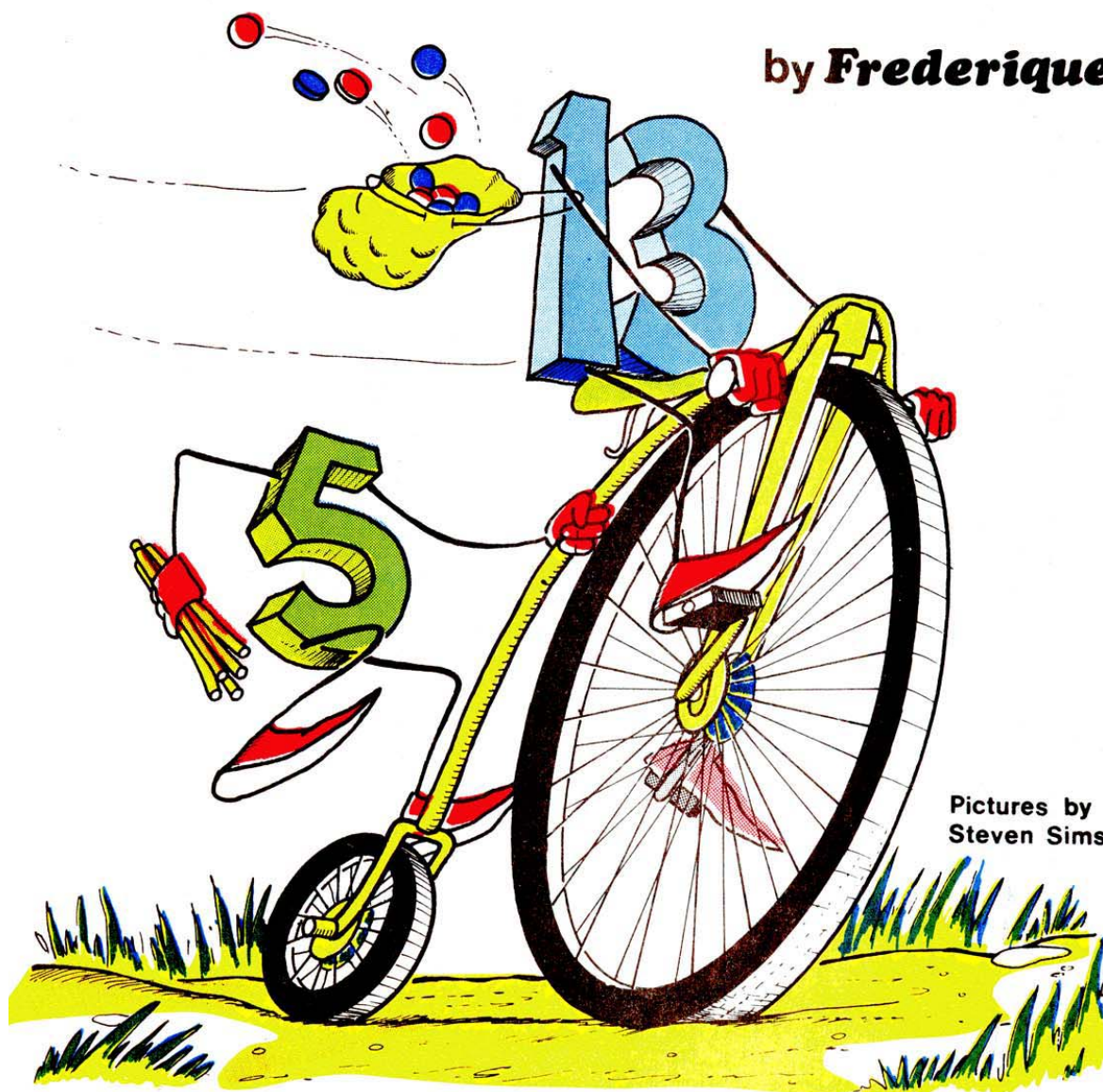


SUMMER SCHOOL

in the old days

12-5668

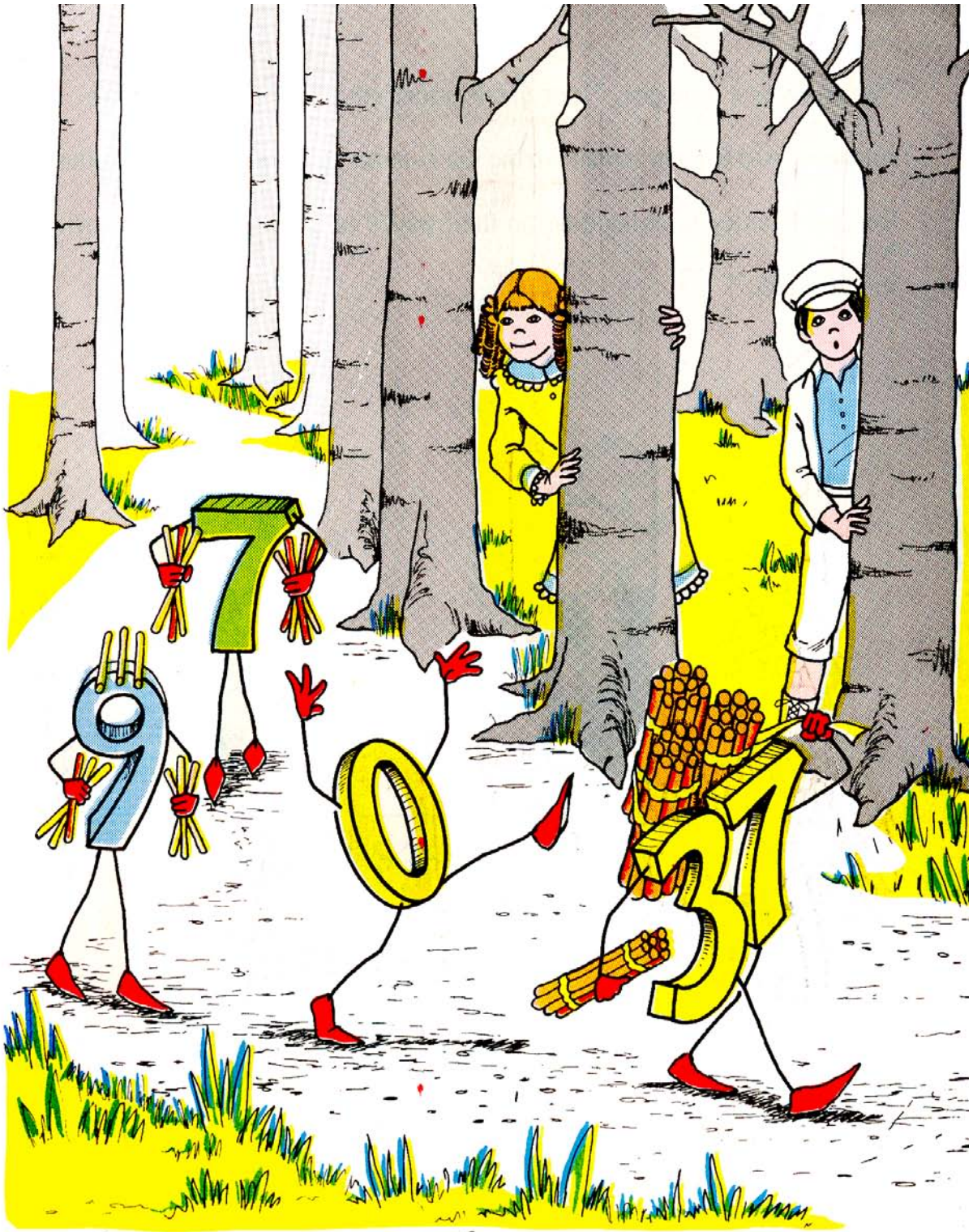
by **Frederique**

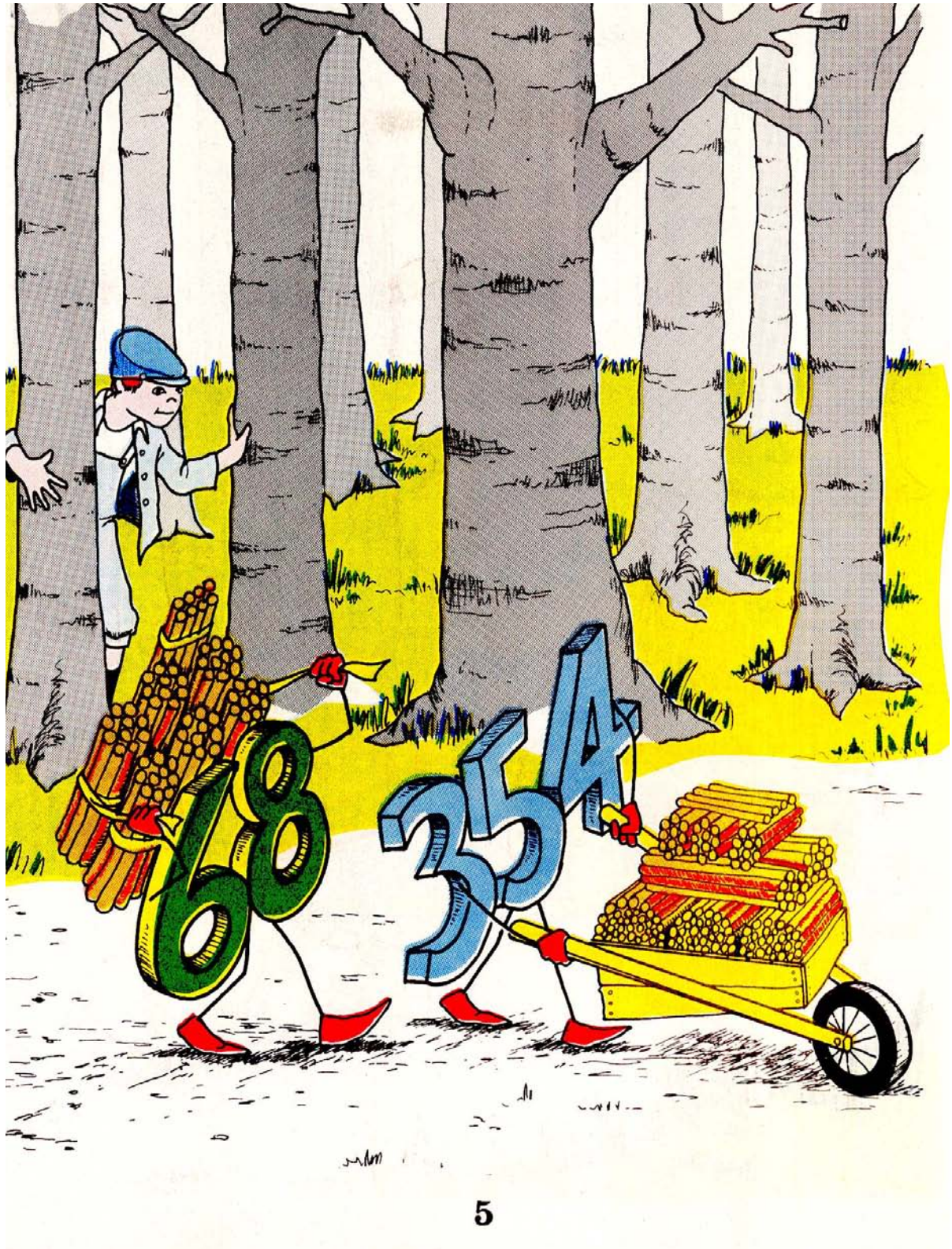


Pictures by
Steven Sims

"When I was a little girl," our great-grandmother told us, "the whole numbers used to go to school during the summer while we were on vacation. We used to enjoy watching them on their way to school while we were playing in the woods."





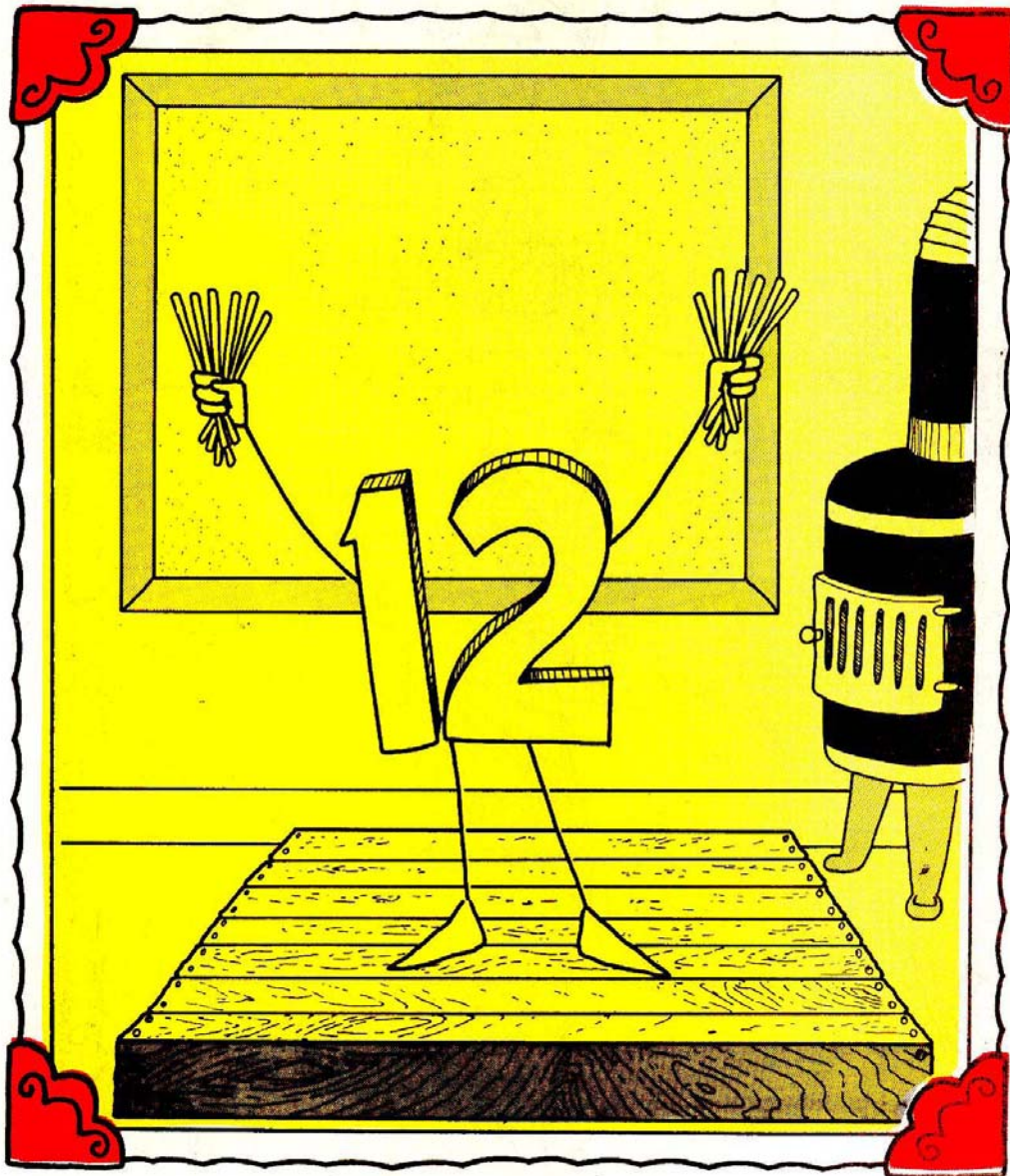


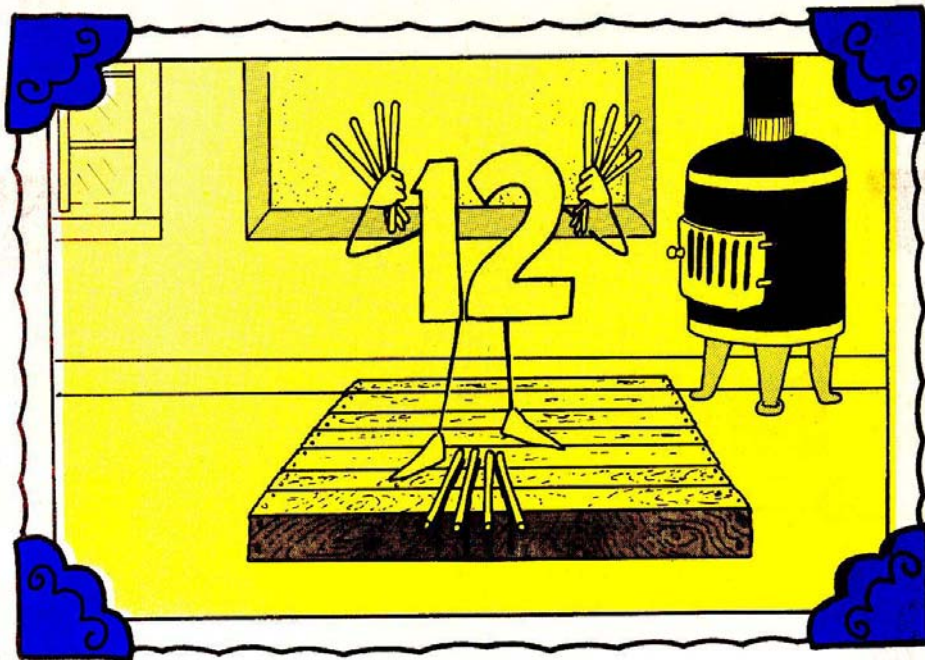
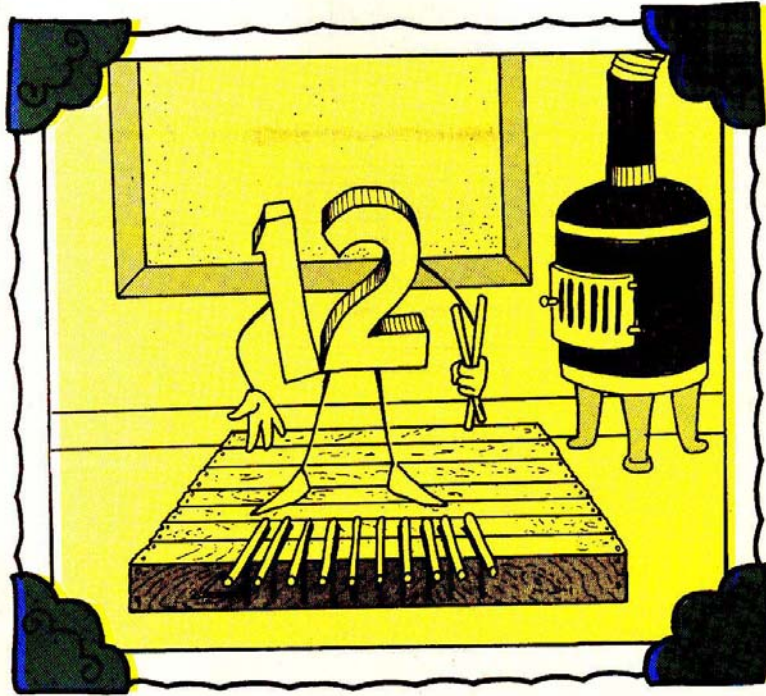


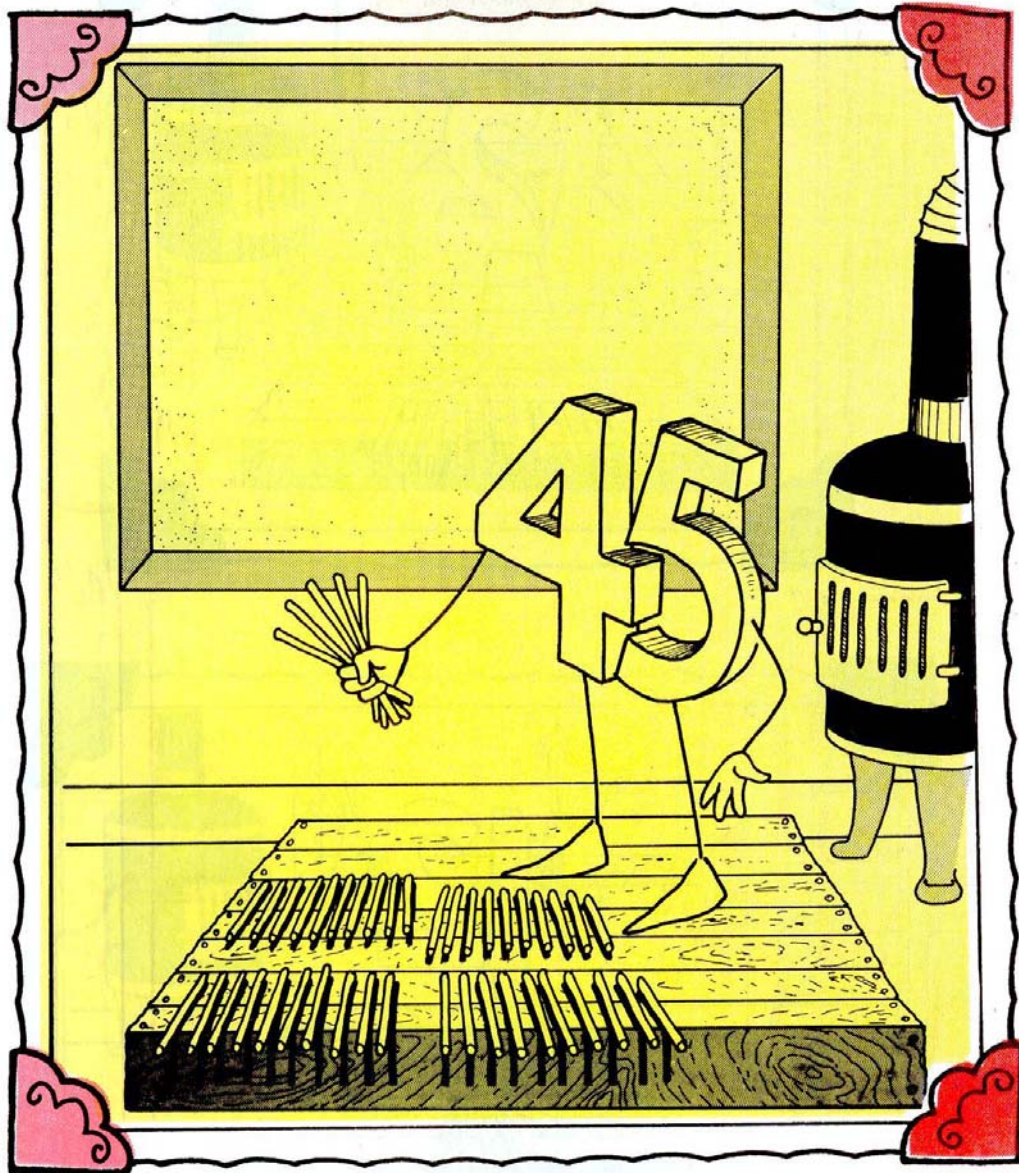


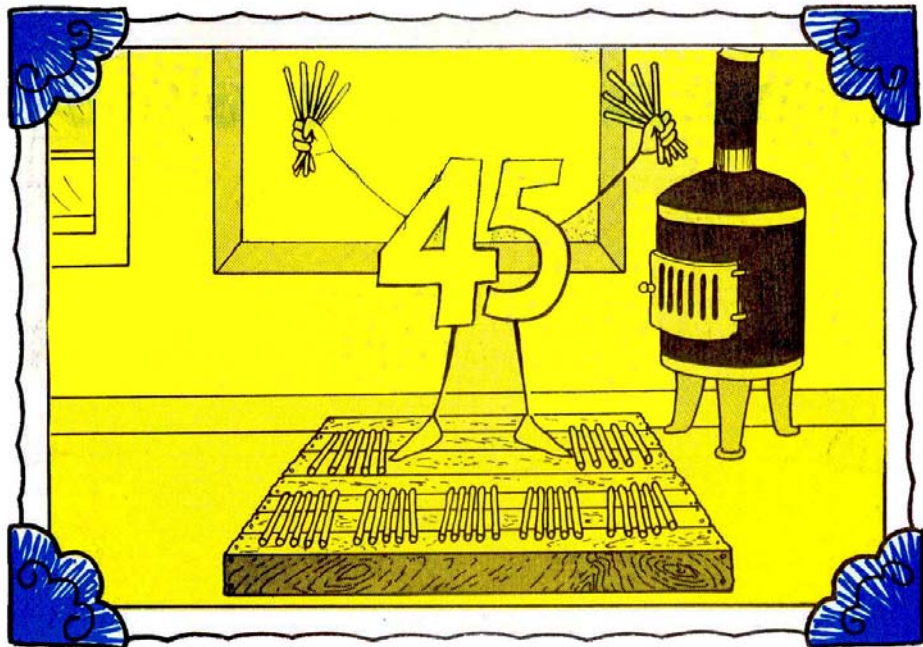
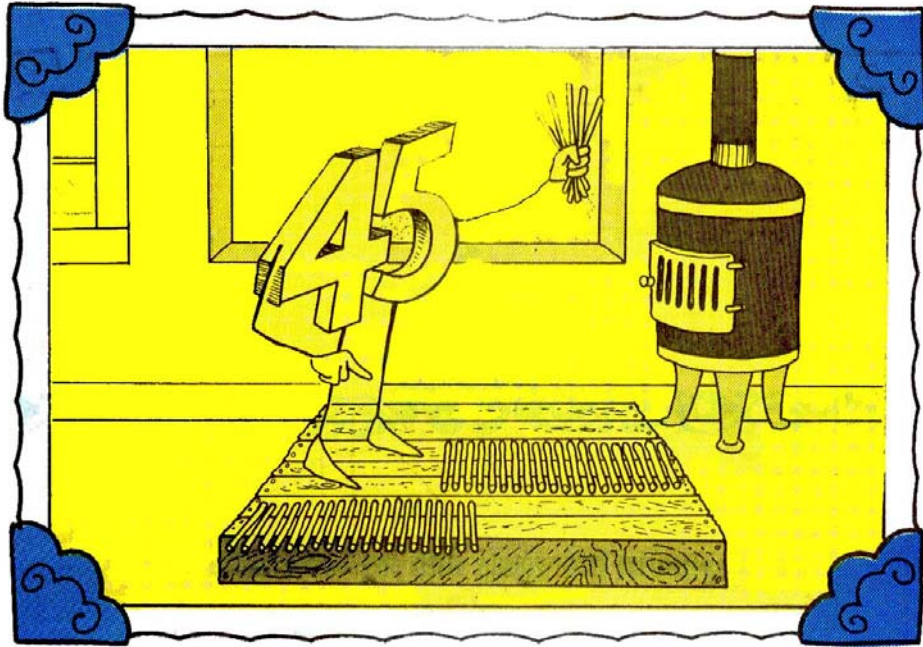
"But why were they carrying all those sticks, Grandma?"

"The numbers had to give presentations about themselves. They used the sticks to show who they were."





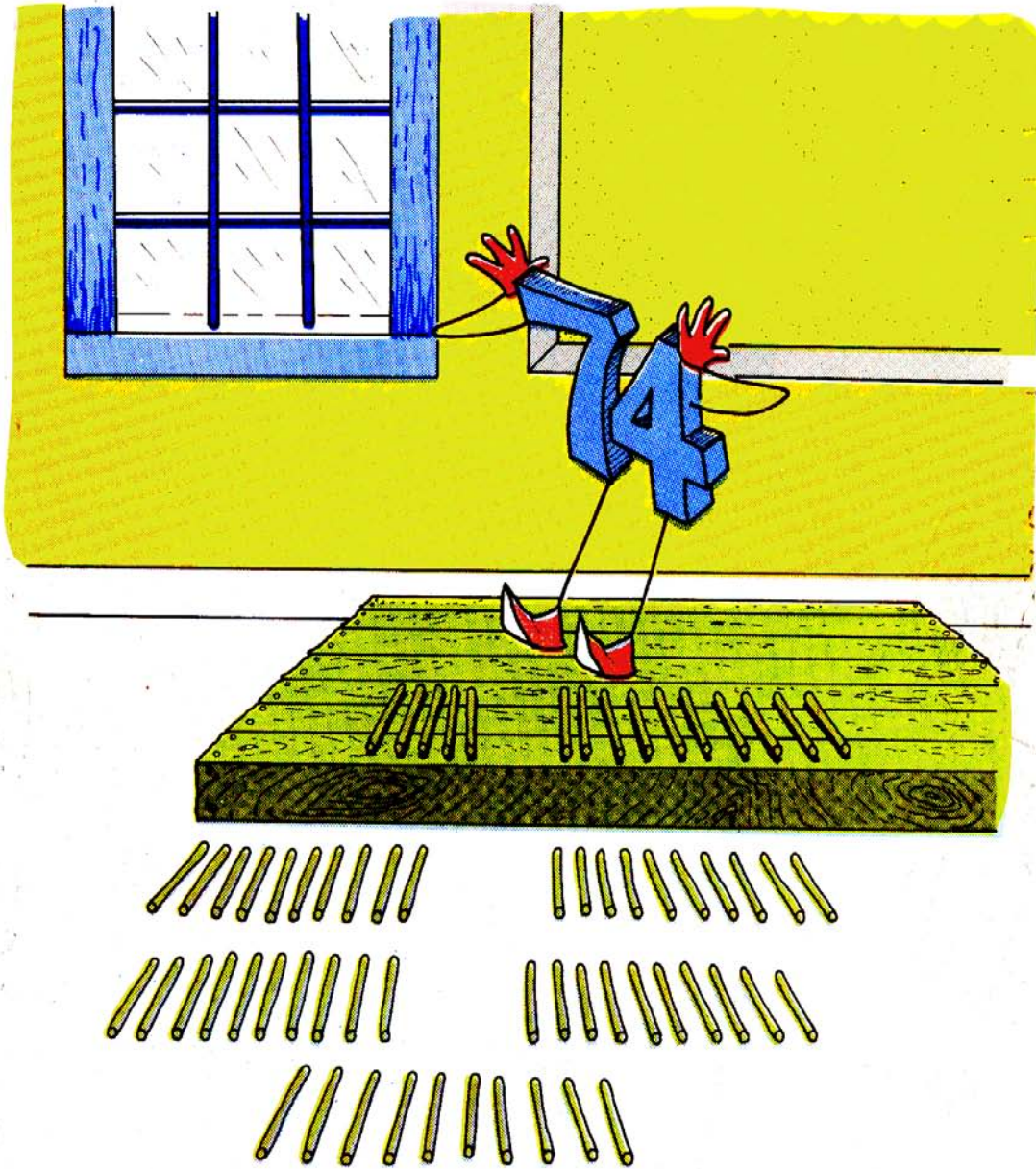






"One day, I was playing in the woods with my two brothers when 74 passed by on the way to school. We sneaked up behind 74 and each of us stole three sticks."

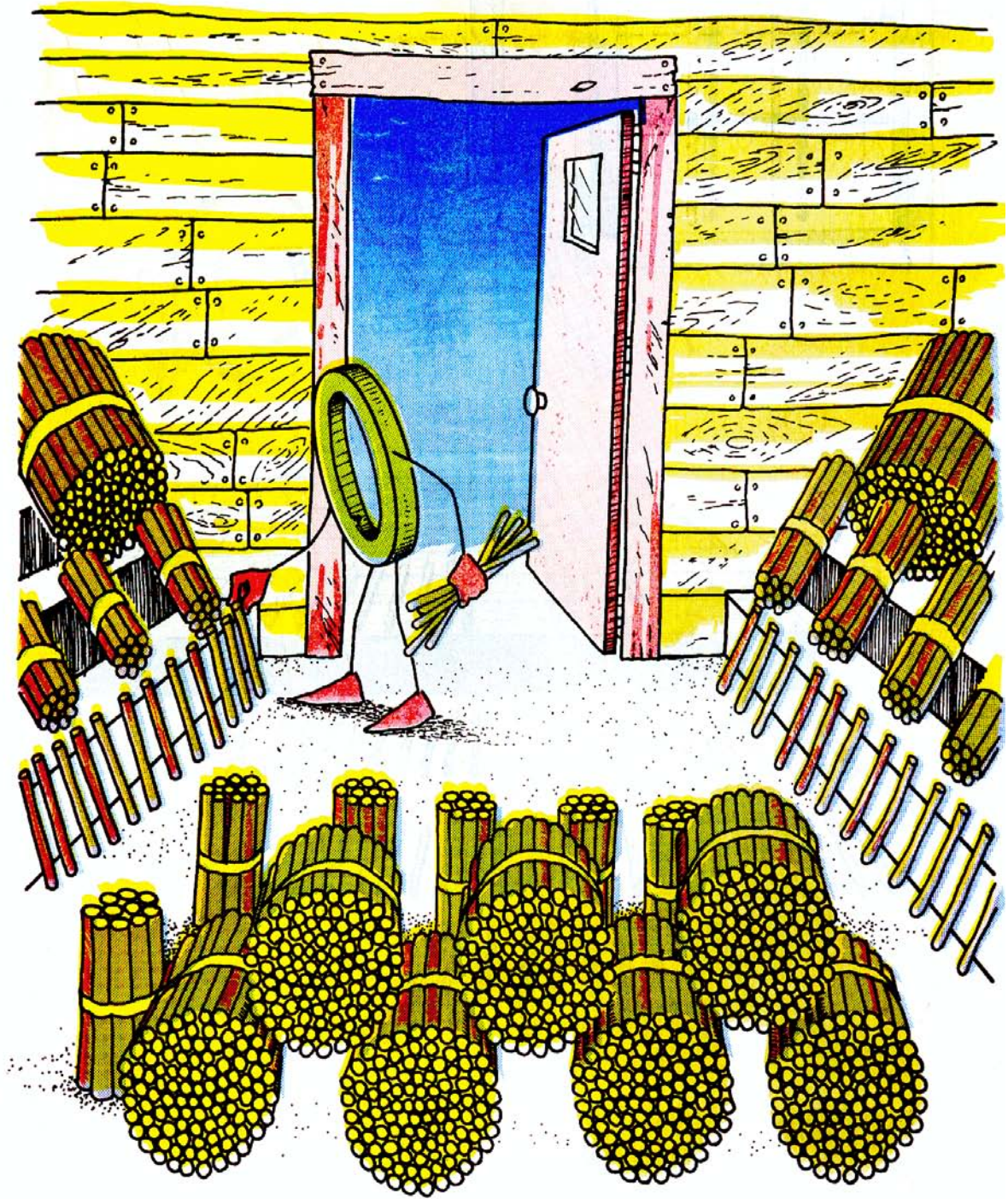


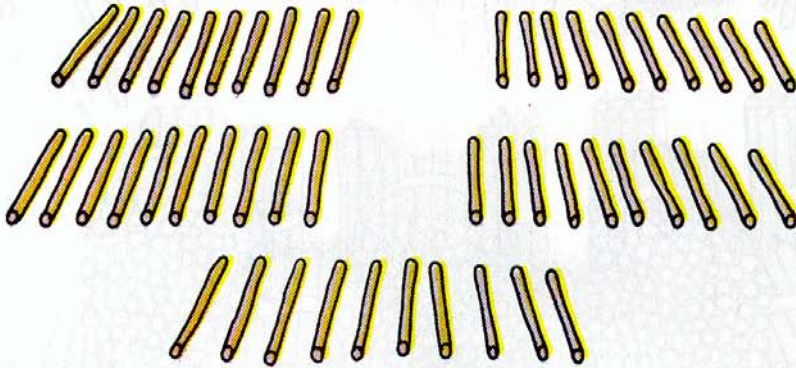
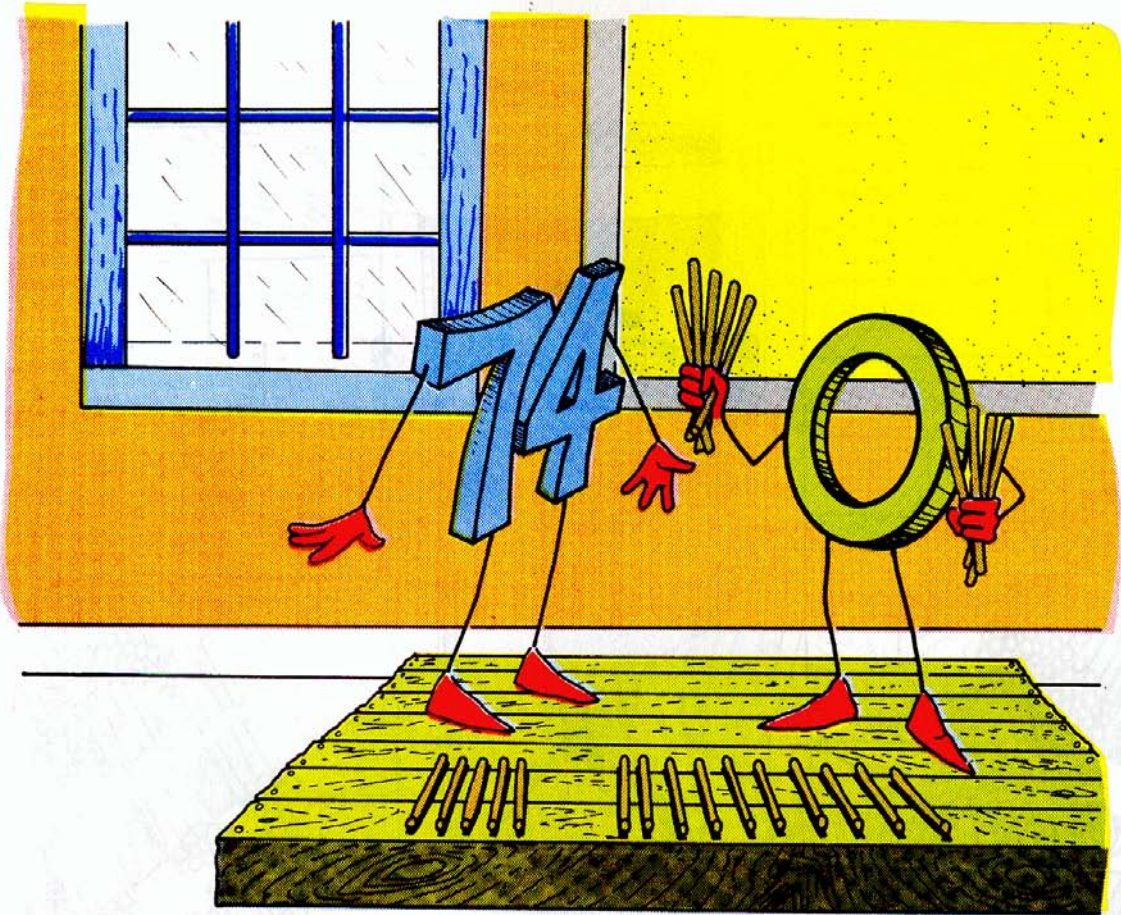


"I've lost some of my sticks," cried 74.

"Some of the numbers began to laugh. But 0, who is a nice number, went to the shed where the brand new sticks were stored. . .







... and came back with nine sticks."

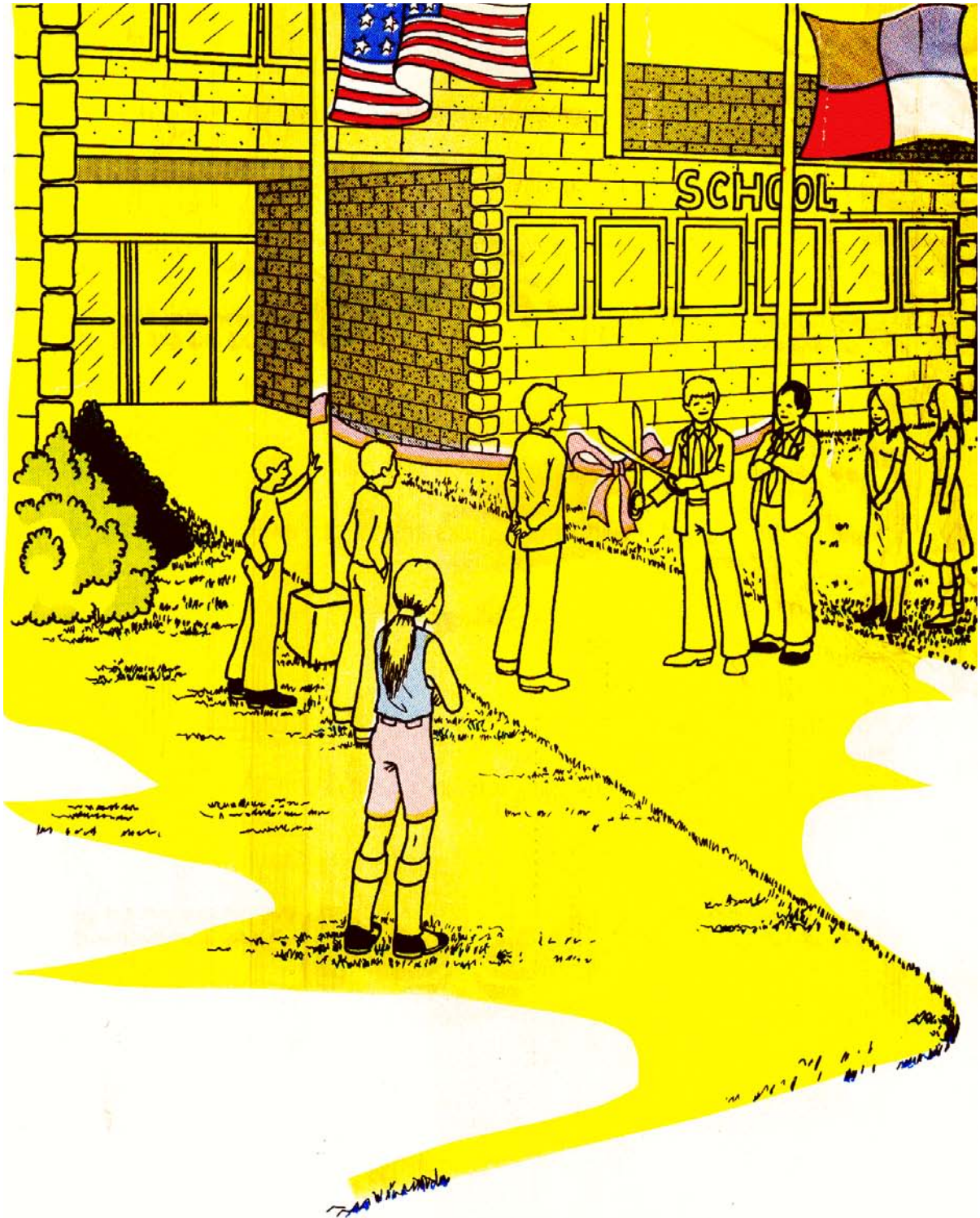


"That evening, when they were on their way home, 74 and several other numbers threatened us with their sticks and we ran away as fast as we could."

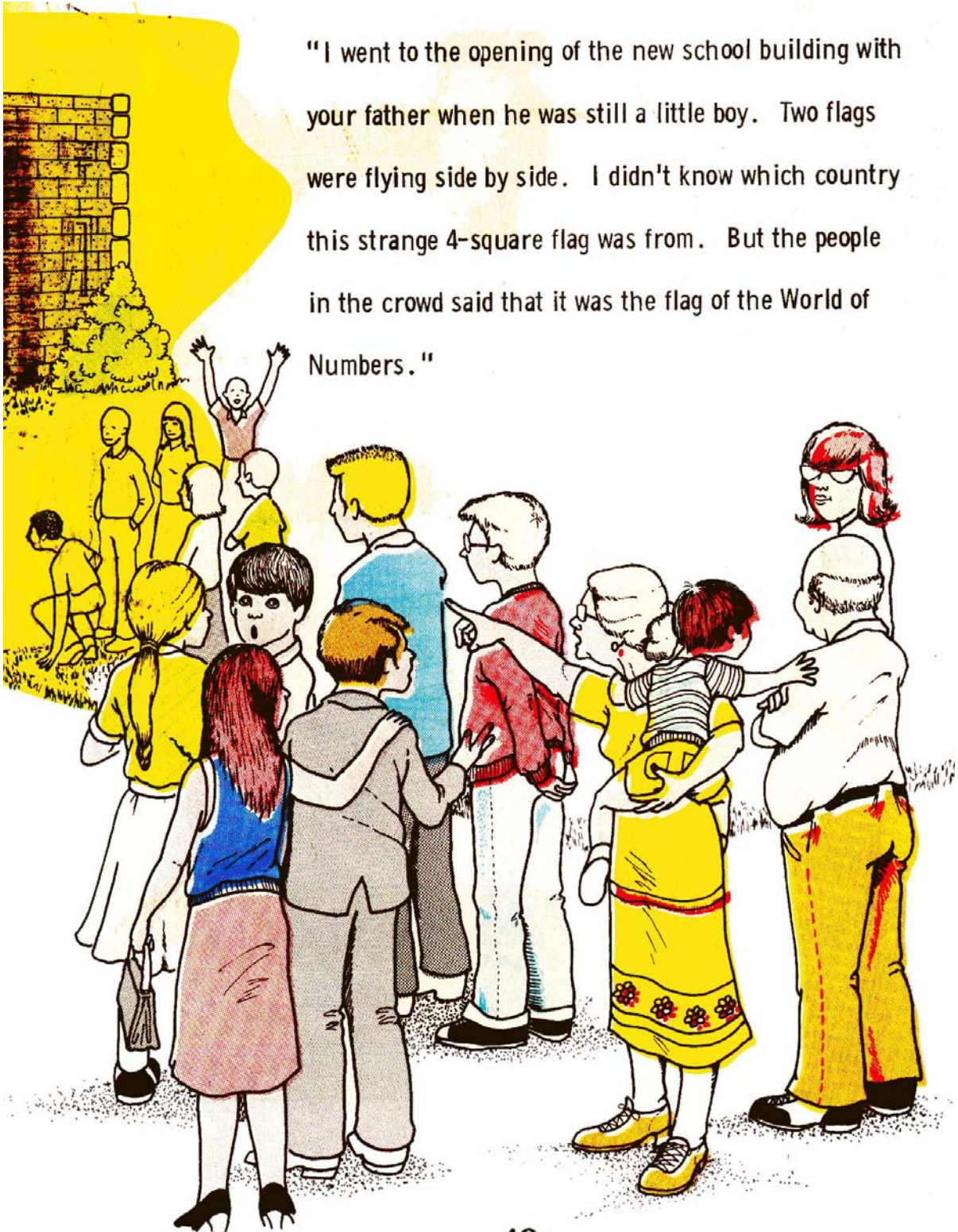


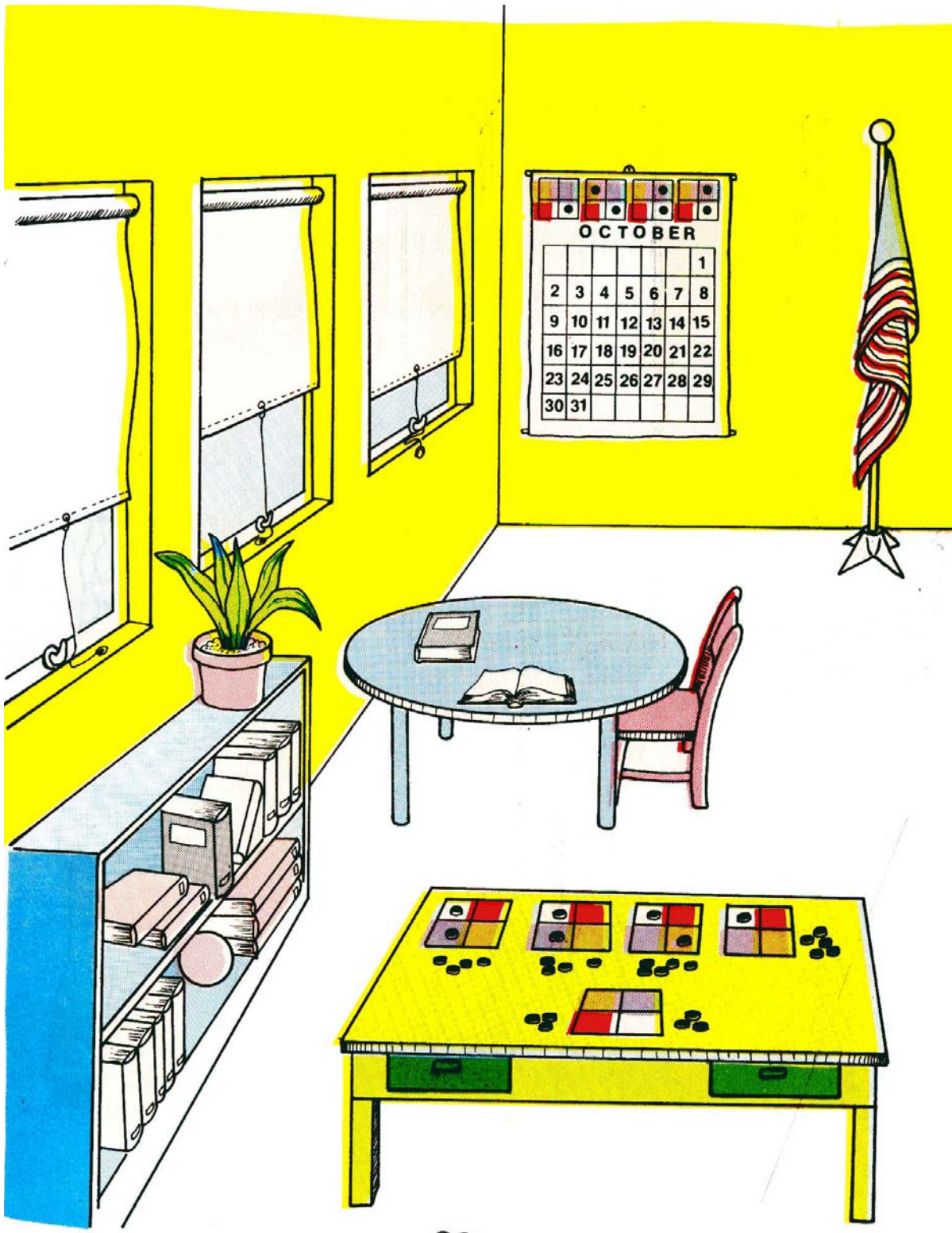
"But that was all in the past," sighed our great-grandmother; "25 years ago, that dear little schoolhouse was torn down."





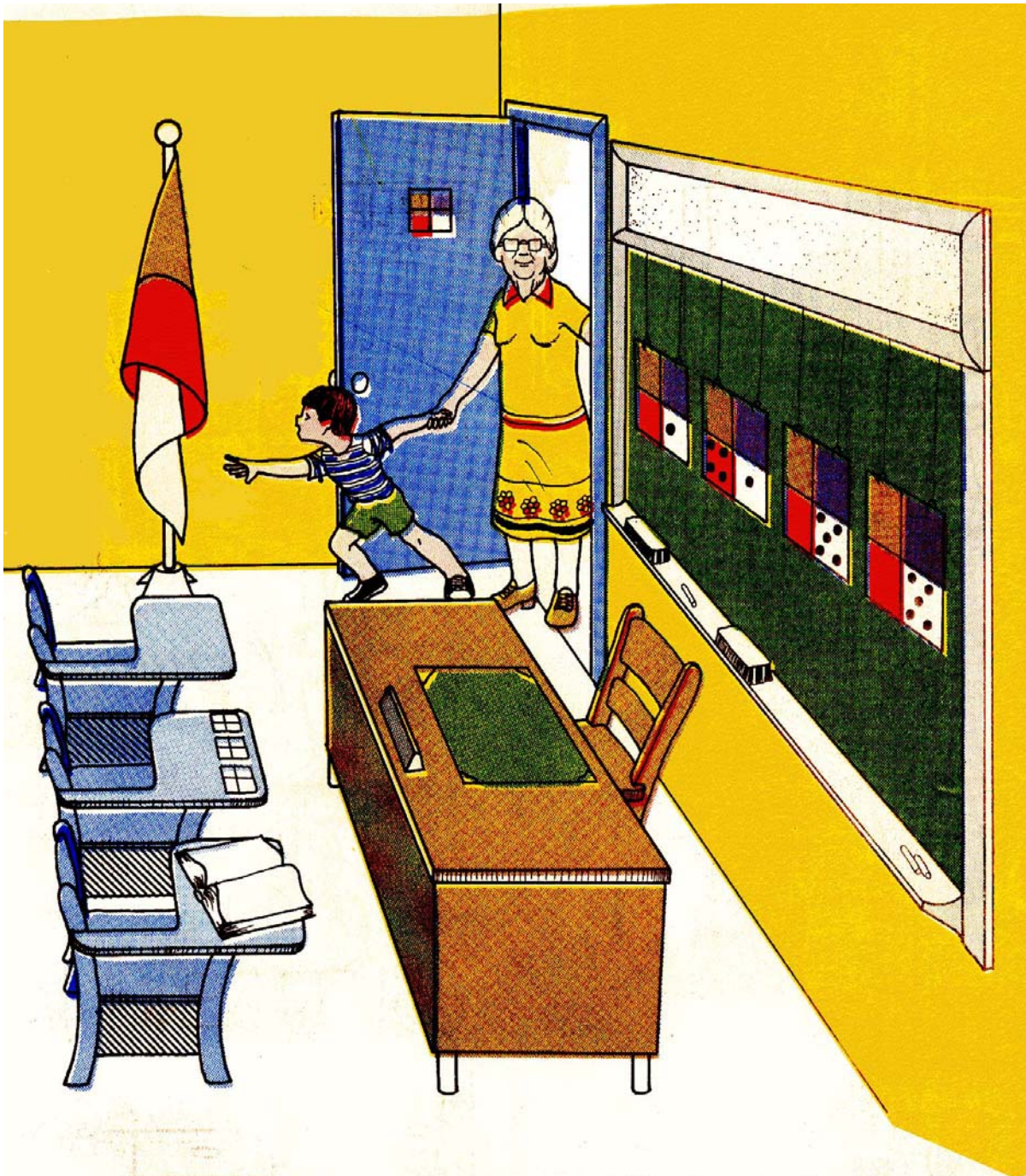
"I went to the opening of the new school building with your father when he was still a little boy. Two flags were flying side by side. I didn't know which country this strange 4-square flag was from. But the people in the crowd said that it was the flag of the World of Numbers."



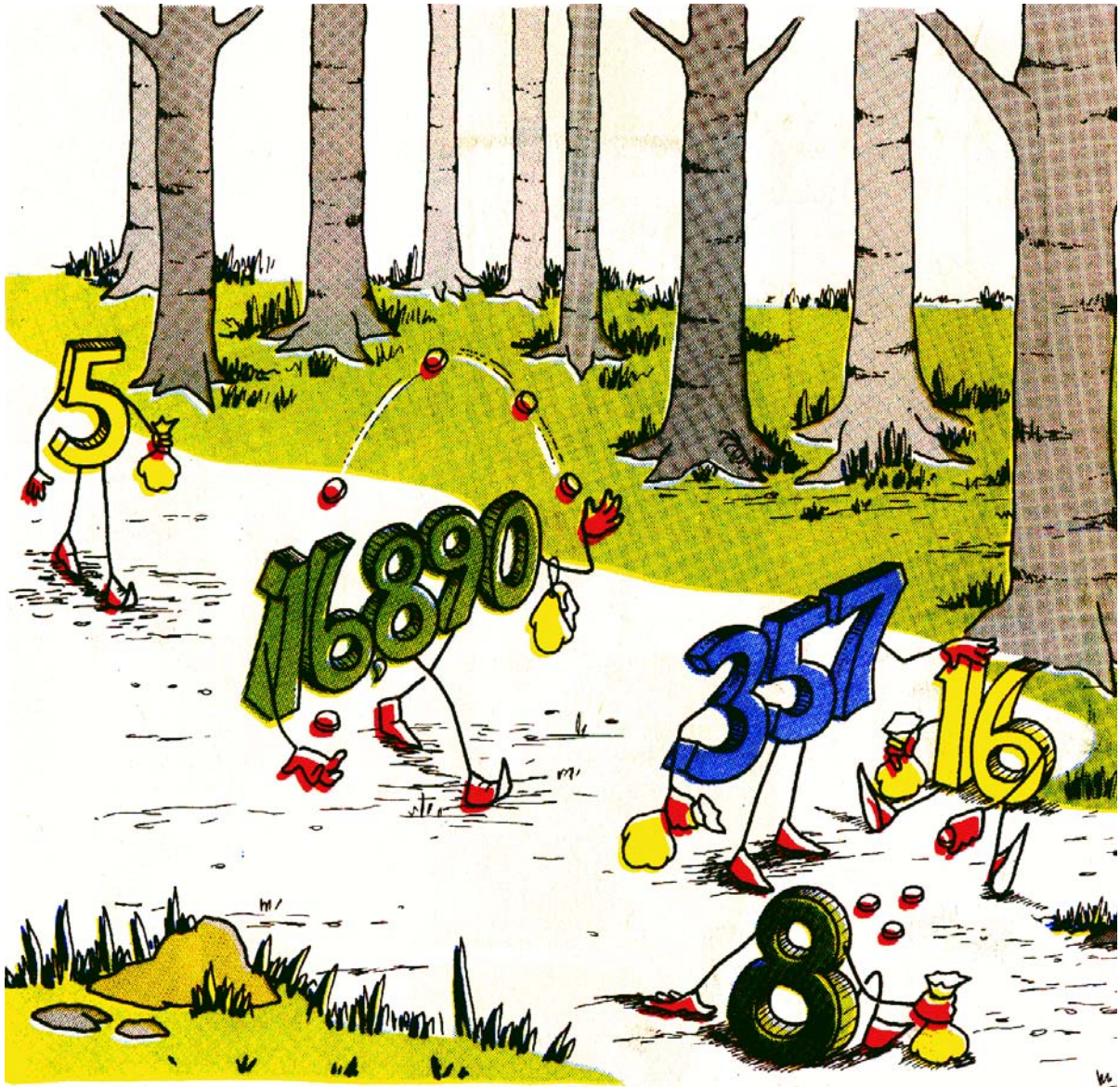


OCTOBER

						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

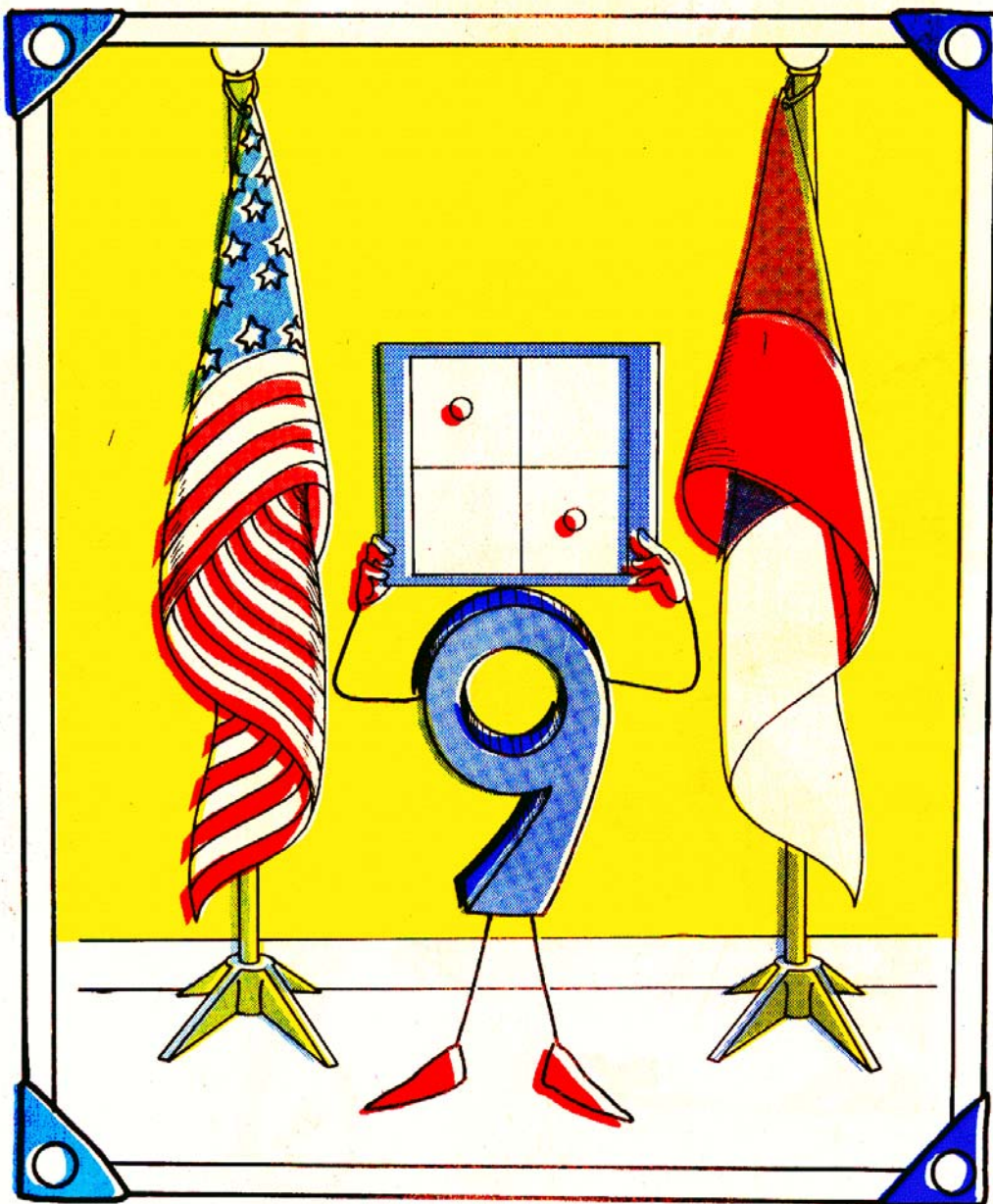


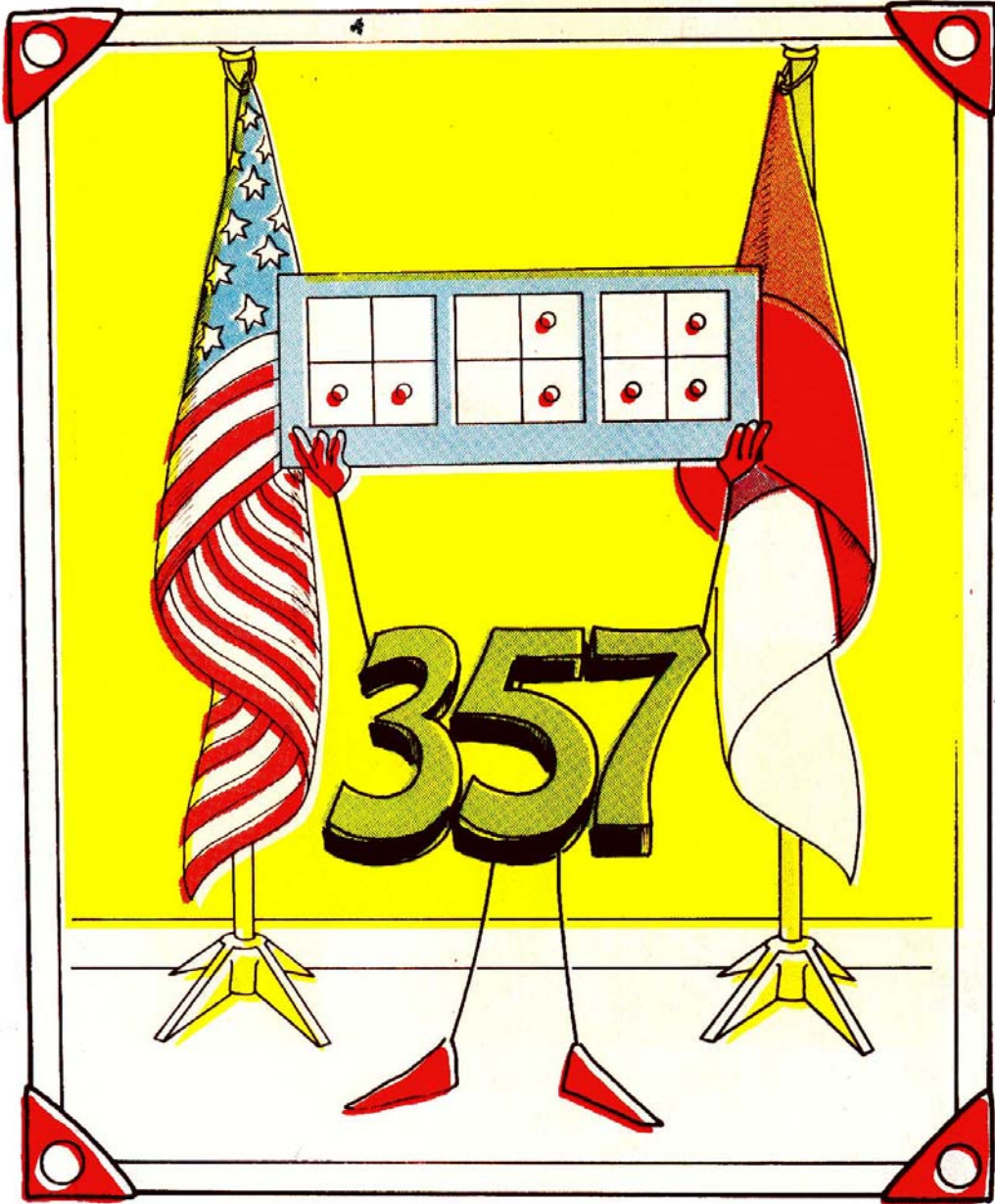
"After the opening ceremony, we were visiting the school and I saw the same little squares again," said our great-grandmother.

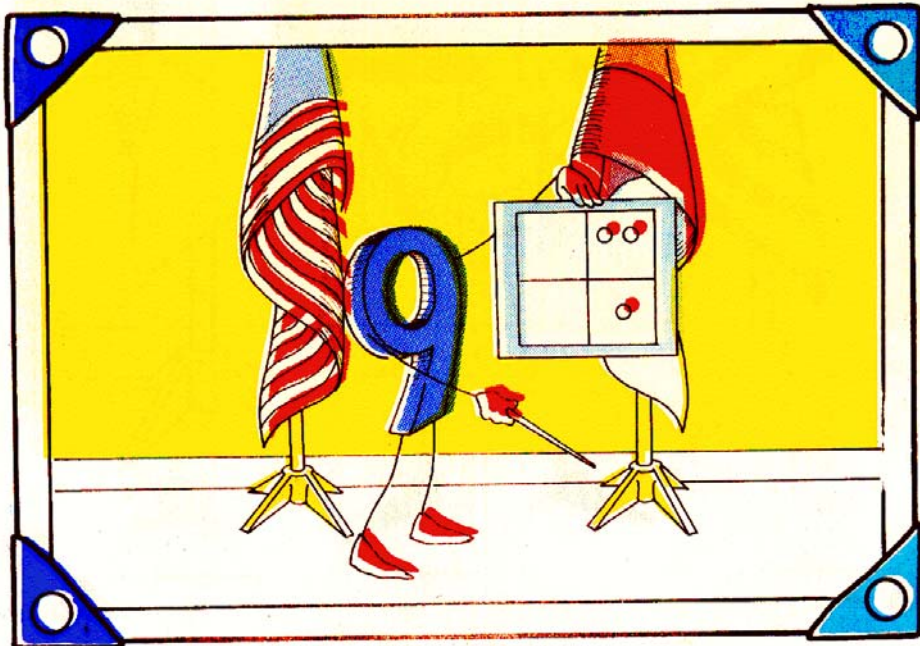
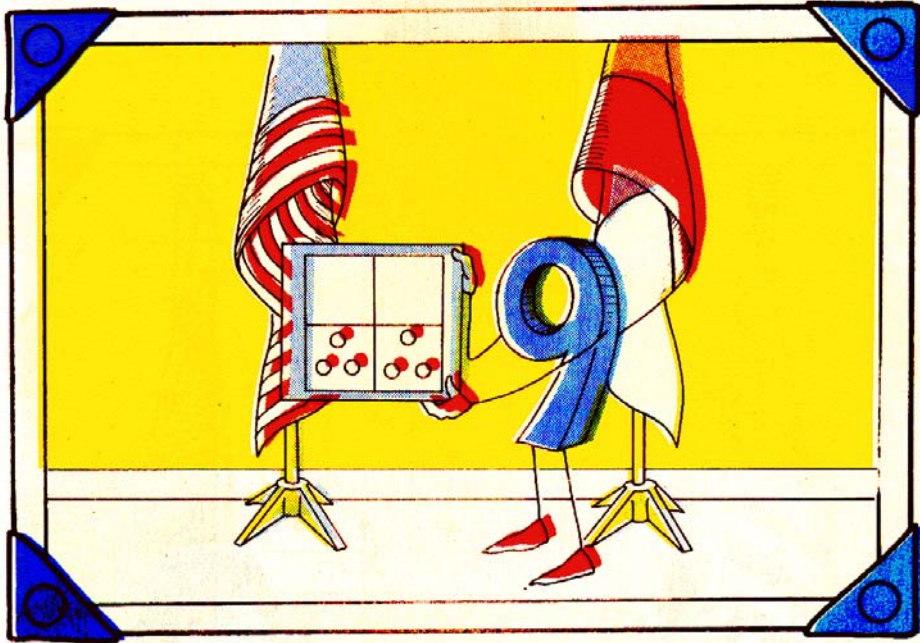


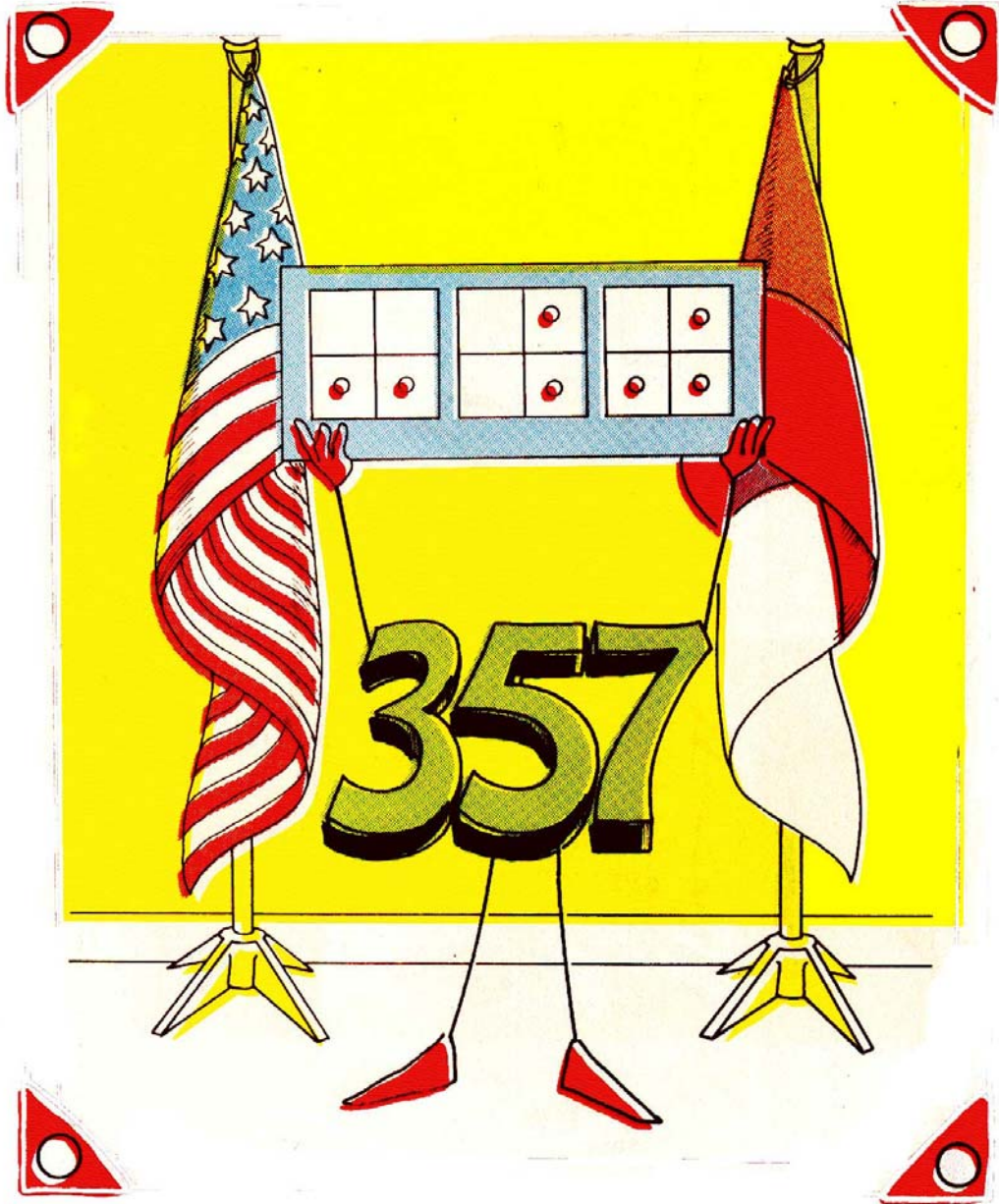
"The next summer, when your father was 8 years old, he was walking in the country with two of his friends and he met the numbers on their way to school. But the numbers were no longer carrying sticks. Except for 0, each of them had a small bag containing red checkers."

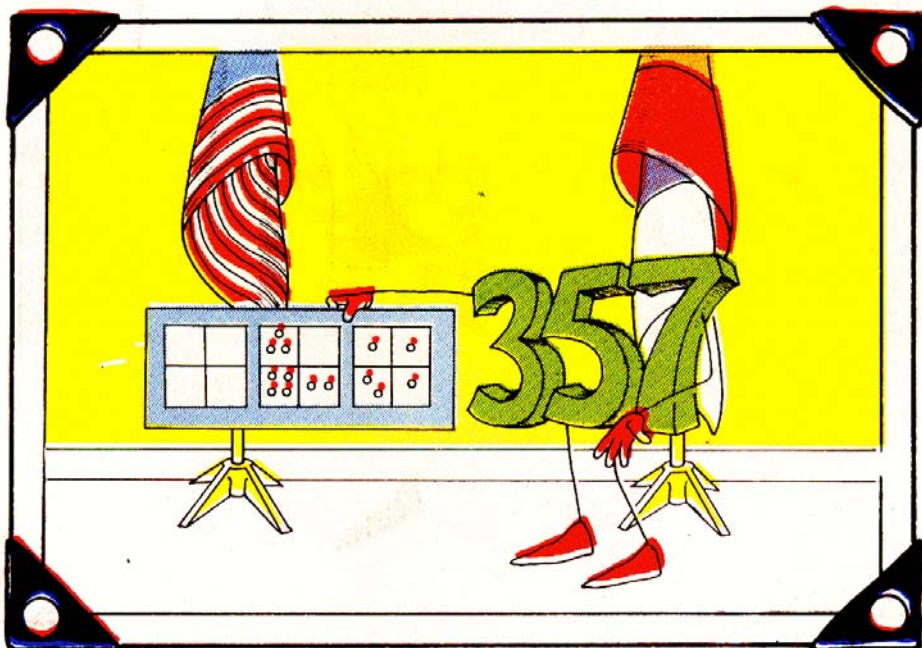
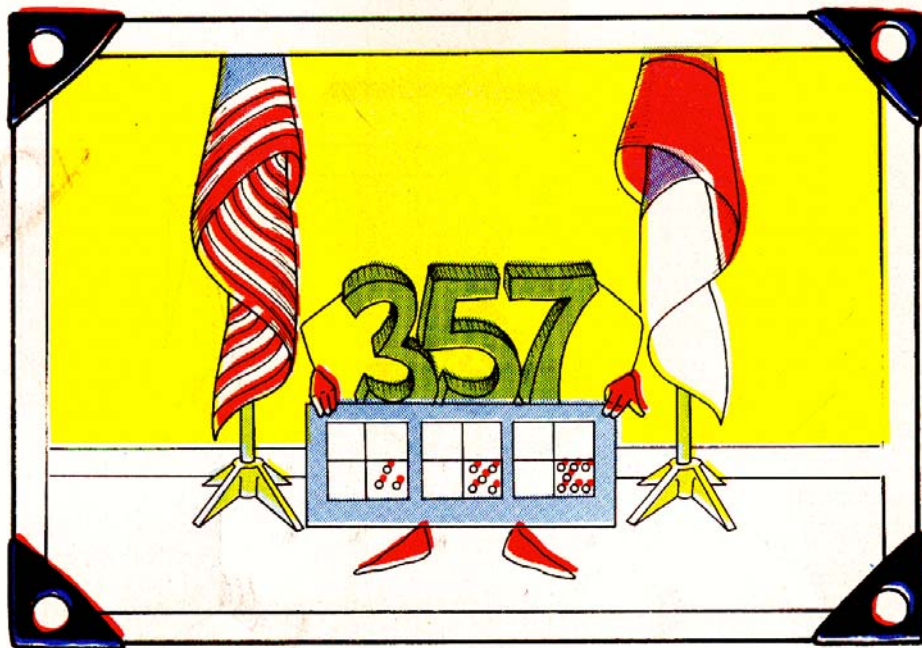
"We know why they no longer needed sticks, Grandma. They could easily explain who they are by putting checkers on the Minicomputer boards."









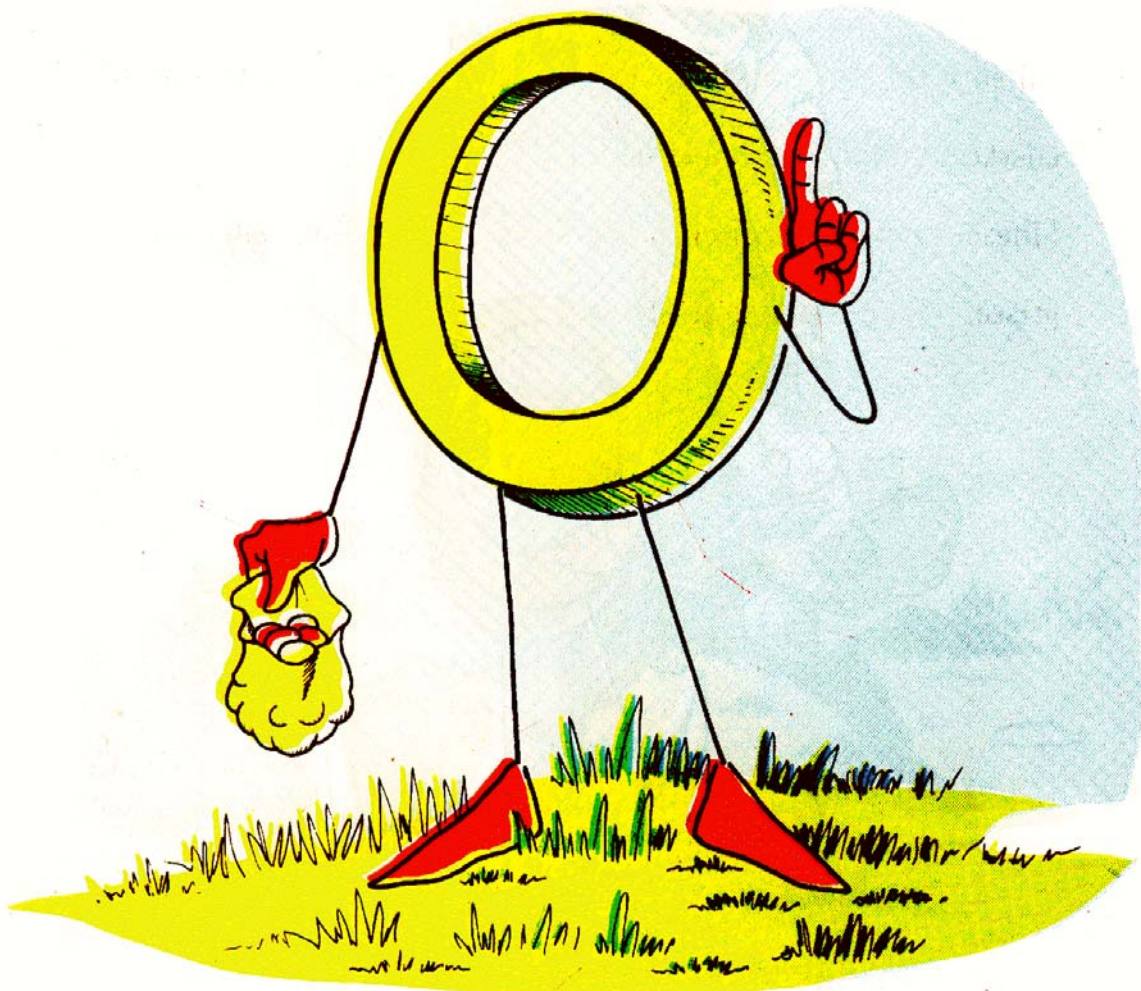




"One day after lunch , O was resting at the foot of an oak tree. Your father sneaked up behind the tree and put a bag containing red checkers and blue checkers inside O's lunch box. "



"Later O discovered the bag and grumbled,
' I bet this is another trick played by one of those children who play all day
long in the woods and enjoy themselves while we go to school. They are
making fun of me because they know very well that I don't need any checkers
to show myself. Isn't that sad enough already?'"

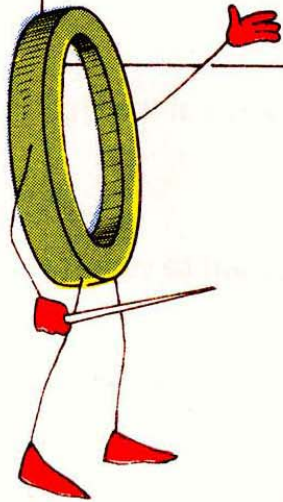
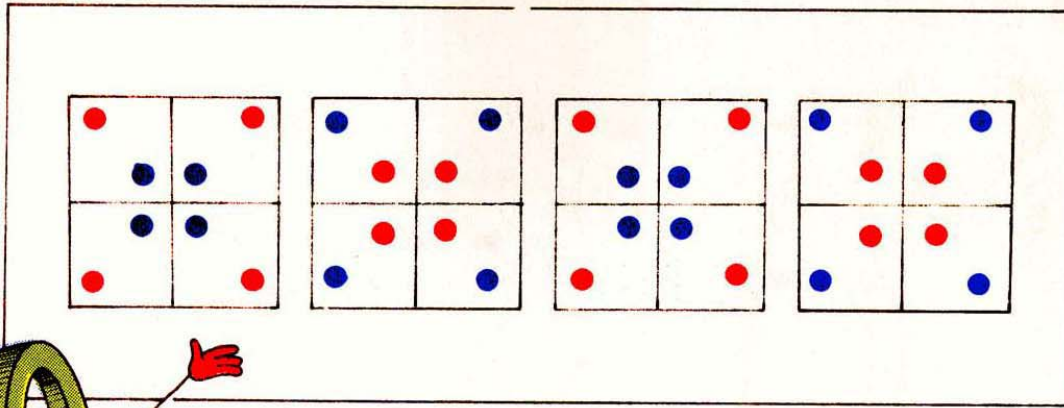




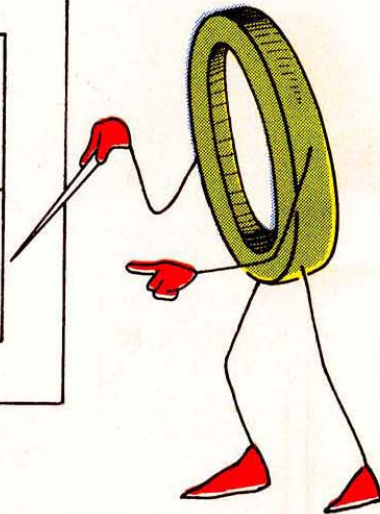
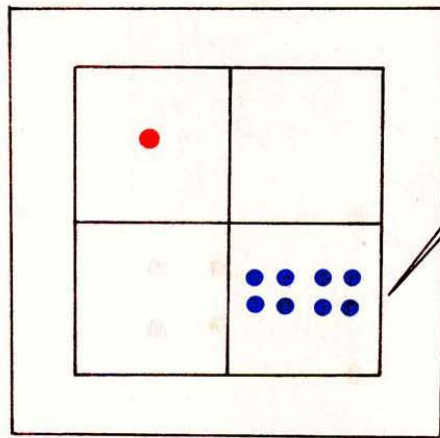
"Then O stopped grumbling, looked at the red checkers and at the blue checkers thoughtfully, and smiled.


'These children have given me a great idea. My friends will be very surprised.' Then O walked quickly back to school. "





Do you understand 0's idea ?





Did you know that the whole numbers go to school during the summer? It appears that an important part of their school day is spent presenting themselves to one another in a variety of ways. In great-grandmother's day, the numbers used bundles of sticks for their presentations. Many numbers found carrying sticks terribly inconvenient. For example, the number 24,367 had an enormous mountain of sticks to bring each day to school. How times change! With the arrival of a great modern convenience, Papy's Minicomputer, numbers no longer needed to carry anything more than a small bag of checkers. (24,367 needs no more than nine checkers; and some say even fewer!)

"Summer School in the Old Days" is a story warmly told and richly illustrated. A wealth of information is provided both in the detailed illustrations and in the words of the text. The careful observer, for example, will discover in which year the new school building was opened. The story offers its readers an opportunity to gain new insights into the whole numbers and to extend their perspective to include a first idea of negative numbers. A glimpse of this wider range of numbers is given when the number 0 finds new ways to present himself.

Ed and Pam



Stories by Frederique

Ages 5-8


The Playful Numbers
The Baby Is Born
81 Roses
One Out of Seven
I Am a Very Happy Boy
The Little Dreamer
Two by Two
The Weird Story of 24
Where's My Nose?
The Happy Puppet
The Magic Box
Summer School in the Old Days

Ages 8-12

The Little Donkey
Singing Friends
Dancing Friends
I Am Not My Name
The Square Trap
Nabu Wins an Award

Ages 10-14

The Hidden Treasure
A Valentine Mystery
Election in the Number World
A Very Strange Neighborhood



Comprehensive School Mathematics Program

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