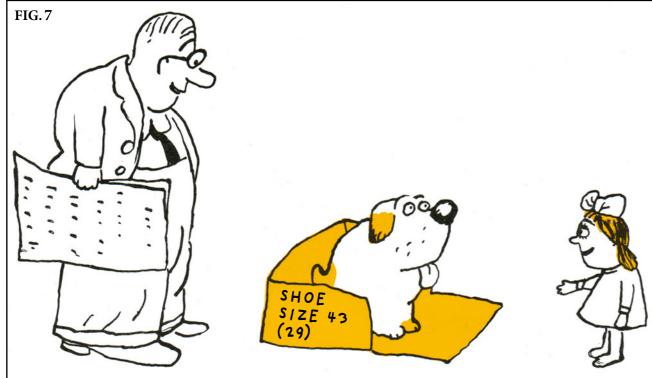
## RUDOLF ČECHURA / JIŘÍ ŠALAMOUN

## FIGS THE MEGADOG

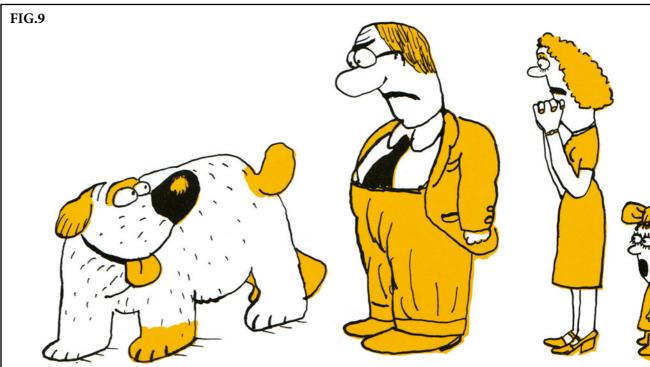






They put Figs in a shoebox. The next day it was too small for him. He was growing pretty fast.





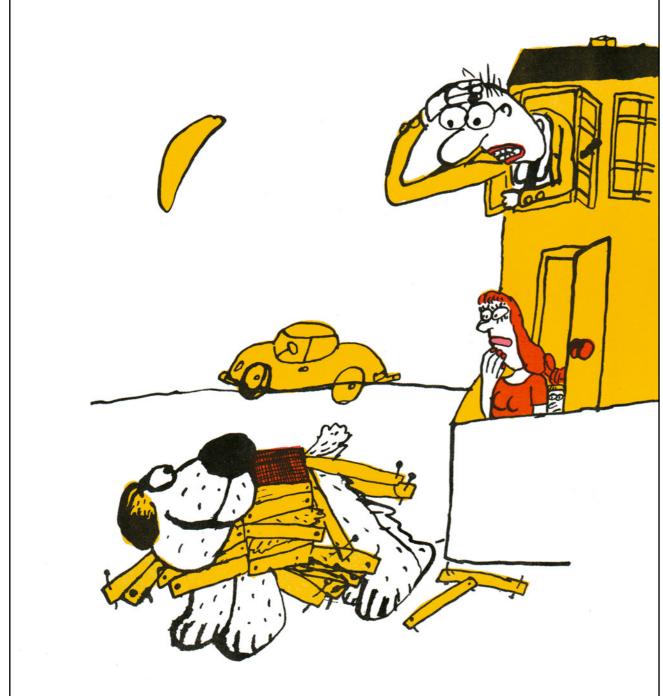
The dog ate a great deal. He could drink three tankards of milk in one day. Soon he was so big that they called him Figlet no longer. He was always Figs.



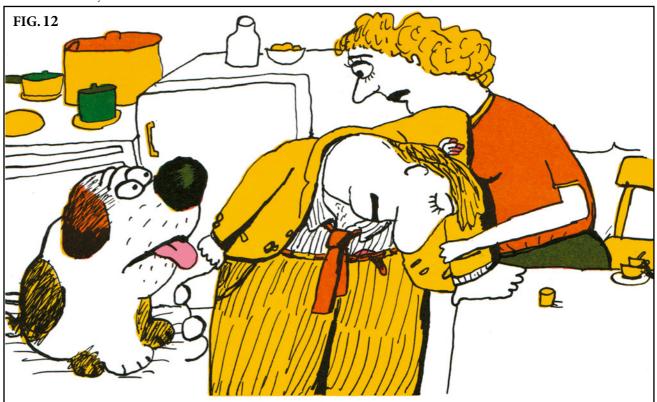
The basket was soon too small for him. Dad built him a wooden kennel. Figs liked this a lot because it was big enough to wag his tail in.

One night they heard a mighty creaking, groaning and cracking. In the yard, they saw that the noisemaker was no thief. It was Figs's kennel.

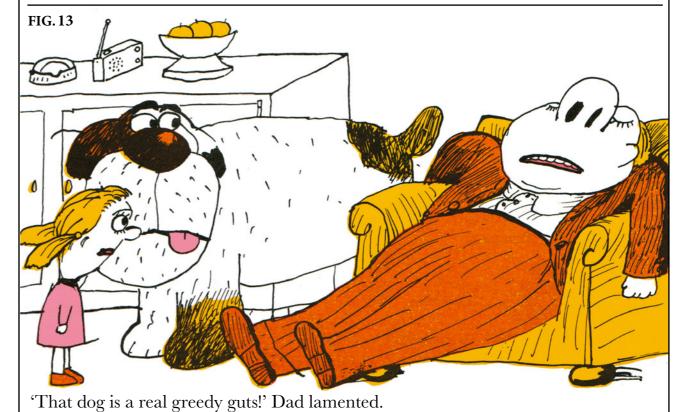




'It was such a lovely kennel,' said Dad sadly, 'with lots of wear left in it.'

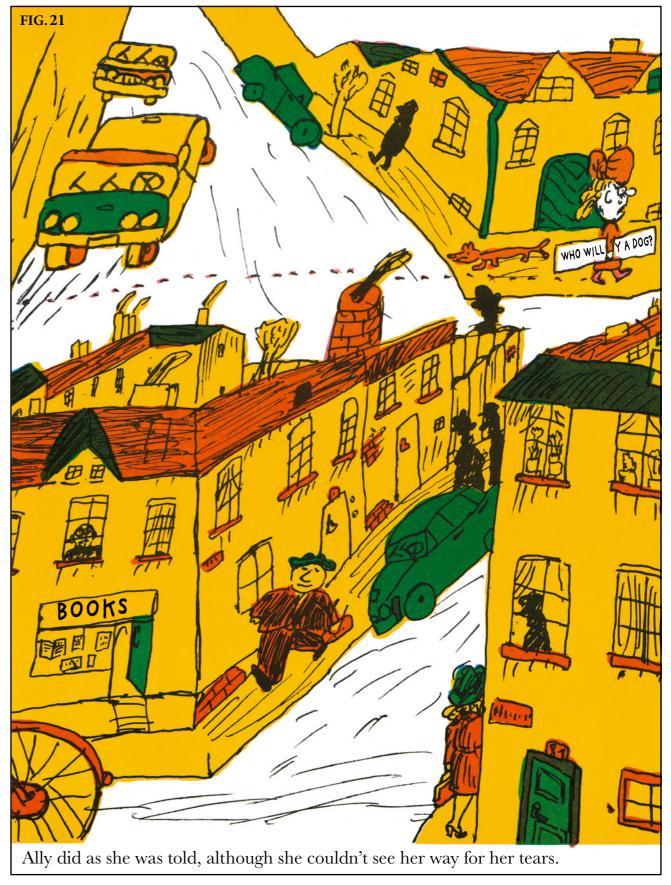


The little dog grew and grew till it became a big dog. And then a giant dog.



'Go and put it up by the pond on the green,' he commanded Ally.

Tears are no excuse for inattention



/ 12 / / 13 / FIG. 35

He ran so fast that soon the postman was within view.

HELLO



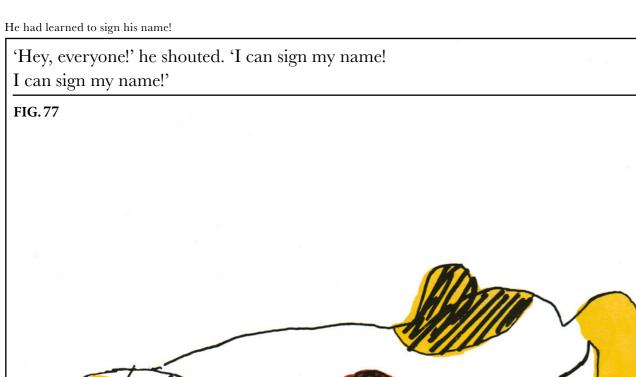
he said at the top of his voice, 'Hello—' Further talk was impossible.





In front of a circus, Figs met its ringmaster. 'Good morning,' he said. 'Good morning,' replied the ringmaster. Two steps on, he realized what he had just witnessed. 'Wow-wee! That dog can talk!'



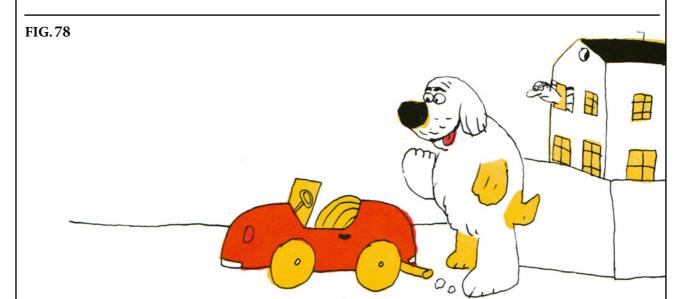




He left his signature on every post and pillar they passed. Dogs will be dogs!

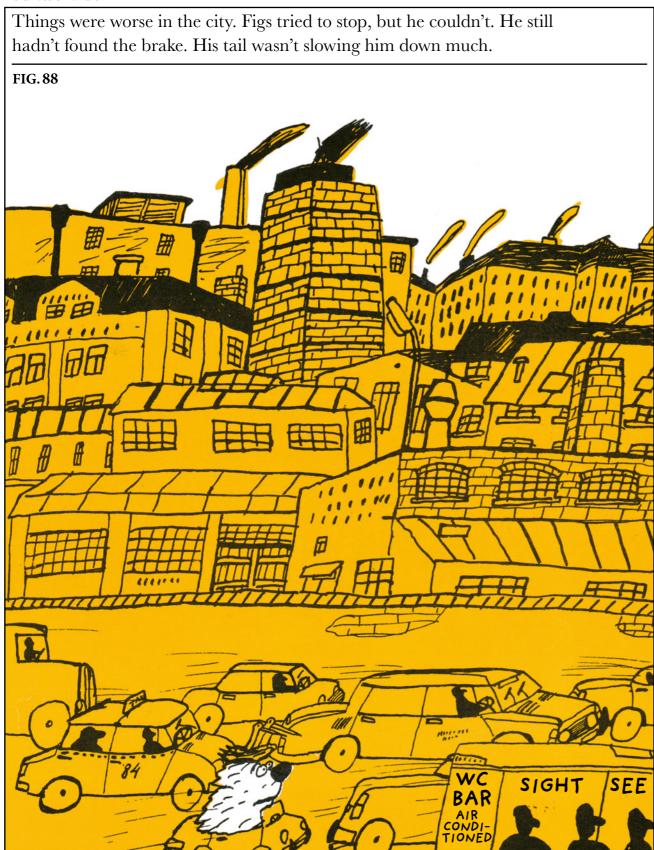
## Figs at the wheel

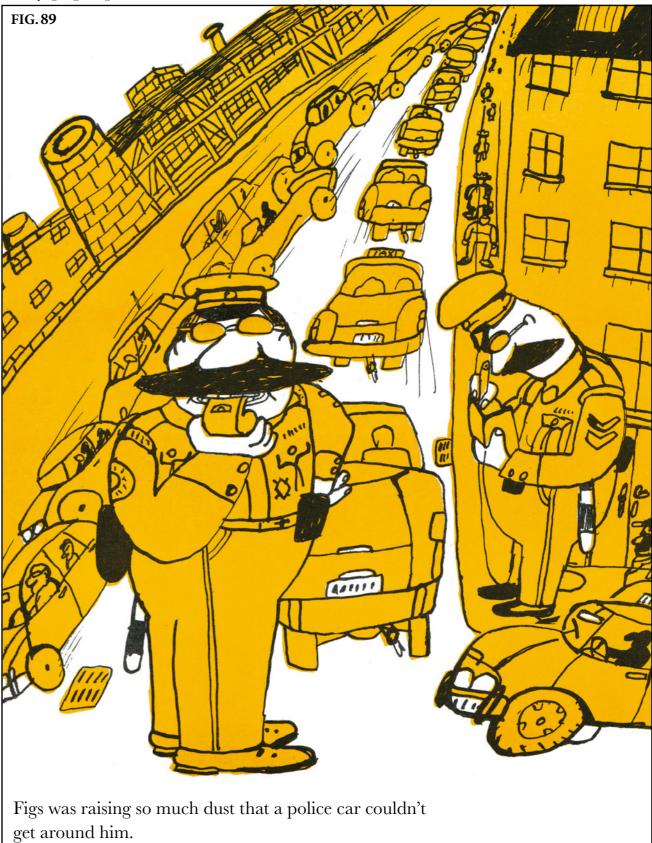
Once, the midday heat was so strong that the car started up on its own.



'I may as well take it for a spin,' Figs said to himself.







At last they reached a road with a clean surface.

/50/

BUS REISE

Figs makes a splash again

But things turned out very different. After eating the buns he was terribly thirsty. He was forced to enter the nearest tavern.

'I'd like a cask of milk, please,' he said to the landlord.

Three sailors were sitting nearby, remarking loudly that their captain was a sea dog.

FIG. 119



On overhearing this, Figs pricked up his ears. 'I heard you calling your captain a dog, gentlemen,' he said. 'Would he take me on as a colleague?'

FIG. 120

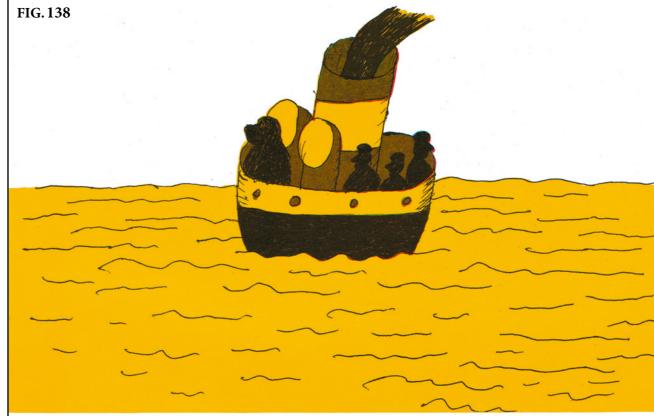
The sailors said to each other, 'Our captain may be a sea dog, but he's no match for our helmsman! That, my friends, is a Megadog!'



Figs never took the ribboned sailor's cap from his head. He stood proudly at the wheel, looking intently ahead, glad the boat was moving so slowly that he saw all kinds of things.



If one day you hear sailors referring to their captain as a sea dog, ask them if he happens to be a Megadog.



Who knows, Figs, being so clever and quick to learn, may one day be promoted to captain himself!

