To answer the question of why I received an Xmas card on Halloween, you have to know the decimal (base 10) and octal (base 8) number systems. The decimal system uses 10 signs: 0, 1, …, 9. The octal number system uses only 8 signs: 0, 1, ..., 7. The table below show how the integers in 0..25 are represented in these two systems.

You can see that Dec 25 equals Oct 31. Ha!

Decimal Octal  Decimal Octal Decimal Octal  
00 00 10 12 20 24  
01 01 11 13 21 25  
02 02 12 14 22 26  
03 03 13 15 23 27  
04 04 14 16 24 30  
05 05 15 17 25 31  
06 06 16 20  
07 07 17 21  
08 10 18 22  
09 11 19 23