

Benny Calder, a traveling salesman, was having a bad day. It started off OK. He loaded his samples into the back of his shiny new red pickup truck and headed to his first appointment. Unfortunately, he was a better salesman than a navigator, and ended up hopelessly lost. He finally pulled into a small town, Bolton, Iowa, looking for directions. As he was passing the local bank he spotted a kid standing out front. He stopped and yelled out the window, "Hey kid, do you know where I could buy a road atlas around here?"

"I've got your road atlas right here," the kid yelled back, throwing a lit string of firecrackers at the truck. The kid (whose name was Fred, by the way) took off running around the back of the bank. Benny jumped out of the truck and started to give chase, but then thought better of it. He got back into his truck thinking, "Nuts to this town! There's a bigger town just a couple of miles down the road, I'll check there for a road atlas." He put his truck in gear and sped out of town.

Meanwhile, Mike and Joe, two of Bolton's most bitter enemies, had decided to finally have it out. They met in the alley behind the local bank, and were just about to start fighting when they heard the loud bangs from Fred's string of firecrackers. Fred came running around the bank yelling that the bank was being robbed, knowing that Mike and Joe were just dumb enough to believe it. Mike and Joe ran around to the front of the bank just in time to see Benny Calder leaving town.

While all this was going on, Officer Sam Jones was cruising in his new patrol car and talking to his wife on the CB radio. "Sam, I've got your *special* lunch ready for you, why don't you come out here and arrest me," she said. "I've got my siren on right now baby," Sam replied. He reached down and flipped on the siren and the lights and headed out to his farm, just outside of town. (In the same direction that Benny went.)