**Grandpa Thom and the VW**

**Sometimes, as we are growing up, we do things that we maybe should not be doing. Well, this was the case once with Grandpa Thom and I. I am sharing this story so that you can learn from our mistakes. Learning from others is a better and less painful way to learn than to make the mistakes yourself and then, live to regret things you have done.**

**Grandpa Thom was a car nut (kind of like the Ice Man). And, in our family we had an old, beat up, rusting Volkswagen Beatle. It was a second car that our family used for getting around town and making short trips.**

**One evening, our parents were gone and Grandpa Thom and I were home alone. We were talking in the kitchen when we both saw the keys to the VW on the kitchen counter. We both had the same idea at the same time. Grandpa Thom said, “Look, the keys to the VW. Let’s take it out for a drive.” That was a very good idea except that we both did not have our driver licenses yet. It was against the law to drive without a license. And, our parents would not want us to drive the car without them giving us permission.**

**So, we got in the car and fired it up. Wow, we were excited to be behind the wheel and driving on the streets of California. Grandpa Thom was driving and we decided to go to a girl’s house that we knew from school. She was excited to jump in the car and be speeding down the streets of our neighborhood.**

**Well, our neighborhood was hilly and had a lot of curves and bends in it. Grandpa Thom was driving just a little too fast. As we went around a corner, the back end of the car started to slide out. Before we knew it, the car was making a complete circle in the street and then, over the curb and up onto someone’s front lawn! It all happened so fast! We were scared and shaking when we got out of the car. We were glad that no one was hurt.**

**We asked the girl that came with us to walk home because her house was only a few blocks away. But what were Grandpa Thom and I to do? When we hit the curb, two of our tires blew out and went flat. So, we could not just fix one flat and then, go home because we only had one spare tire. All we could do was push the car off of the front lawn and park it on the street.**

**We had a long walk home. We talked about what we would tell our parents when they got home and see that the VW was missing. We finally decided we would just simply tell the truth. It was a very, very long wait for them to get home. When they did, we told them exactly what had happened.**

**Our parents were very disappointed in us. That disappointment was worse than a spanking of some other kind of punishment. We realized that having the trust of our parents was very important and that by doing things against their wishes was not respecting them. Part of Twin Power is learning from your mistakes, telling the truth, and then, don’t make that mistake again. You do not have to be a twin to do those kinds of things.**