**Poppy Thom and the Beach**

**Our mother loved the beach. She would always like to spend hot summer days at the beach. She would go into the ocean and just bob up and down with the rolling waves. We went each time and loved the beach also.**

**One problem was our mother liked one beach where there were no waves or very tiny waves. That was not our kind of beach. We liked the big waves that we could ride by body-surfing. They would send us tumbling under the water and bouncing off the sandy bottom. The bigger the wave, the better. We had to make sure our trunks were tight so they did not fall off when riding the waves.**

**It was always a battle to get our mother to take us to Huntington State Beach where we could have an enjoyable day body-surfing. Sometimes we would win the discussion and other times it was decided to go to Mom’s beach, Belmont Shores. Either way, we loved it.**

**Once a year we would take a family vacation to Carpenteria State Beach. It was about two hours from our home. We spent a whole week at the beach! And, this beach had pretty good waves! We spent our days, body-surfing, building sand castles, catching sand crabs, walking out on the pier, camping out in a tent and eating good food prepared by our mother. It was always a fun vacation.**

**Getting into this popular state park was not easy. There was always a waiting list. To remain on the waiting list, we had to show up every morning and afternoon to show the park rangers we were still interested in a campsite. This meant that Poppy and I would go with an elder brother to the park a few days ahead of time to make sure our family had a campsite for the week. It was fun to hang out with our older brother, Kent. We learned a lot from him about life and about the gospel.**

**Twin Power is having fun with your family. Families are great. We love each other and love to be together. We are blessed to know that in our Church, families can be together forever!**