**Grandpa Thom and the Big Cattle Drive**

**When Grandpa Thom lived in Colorado, he served as a Teacher’s Quorum advisor. He worked with young men that were about 14 years old. All the boys loved him because he was fun and he also was able to teach them important things about the gospel. He also thought of really cool activities for the boys to do.**

**One time, Grandpa Thom was lying in bed thinking what really fun activity the boys could do during the summer. He thought and thought and thought. He thought so hard, smoke was coming out of his ears! Then, a fantastic idea came to him. Wouldn’t it be fun to let these young men go on a cattle drive?**

**Grandma Netsie has relatives that live in Southern Utah. They have a ranch and lots of cattle. That means they also have horses. And, each summer they use those horses to herd their cattle up to some mountain pastures where it is cooler and more land for their cattle to graze. Grandpa Thom thought it would be neat if his young men could be a part of that.**

**The next day, he made phone calls to the relatives about having some extra help on the cattle drive. The answer was, “Yes, bring them on down and we will put them to work.” Well, this was very nice of the relatives but also meant more work. Now, they had a bunch of boys to look after as well as all the cattle. And, what even made it more difficult, Grandpa Thom acted like one of the kids sometimes!**

**It was a great activity. The boys learned a lot about cattle, how to put a saddle on a horse, how to cook over a fire, how to ride a horse and chase stray cattle, how to tie certain rope knots and how to share fun stories around a camp fire.**

**Our daughter, Annie is married to a man by the name of Michael Beckstead. Guess what? When he was a lot younger, his brother was one of the young men on the trip with Grandpa Thom. The brother’s name is Ben. Michael told me about something that happened on the trip that no one has ever forgotten.**

**When everyone was riding their horses and herding the cattle, Grandpa Thom thought it would be fun to sneak up behind Ben’s horse and hit its rear end with his hat. As he got close to Ben’s horse, he took off his hat and slapped the hind end of Ben’s horse. The horse jumped in the air and took off like a bullet. Poor Ben was hanging on for dear life. Finally, the horse stopped and luckily, Ben never fell off. But he was scared and shaking like a leaf in a fierce wind storm.**

**The funny part of all this is when Grandpa Thom raised his hat to hit the other horse, it also scared his horse. His horse reared up on its hind legs and bucked him right off. Grandpa Thom went flying off the horse and hit the ground hard. He sat on the ground for a few minutes, dusty, a little bloody and confused at what happened. Then, he noticed he was having a hard time breathing. Grandpa Thom had broken a few of his ribs and any time he breathed, it hurt.**

**Having broken ribs is not fun. Not only does it hurt to breath, but any kind of laughing was miserable. Well, Grandpa Thom and I like to laugh. Every once in a while, we would say something funny or see something funny and he would start to laugh. Then, he would grab his side and say, “Oh, that hurts!” Then, he would laugh some more.**

**Part of Twin Power is learning from your mistakes. Horses can be dangerous if you are not careful. So, when you are on a horse, don’t horse around!**