**Grandpa Thom and the Great Pine Cone Fight**

**When Grandpa Thom and I were both living in Colorado with our families, we went on camping trips together a couple of times. We were close to the mountains and some really nice campgrounds. It was easy to throw sleeping bags, tents and food into the car and then, just drive less than an hour to a really cool campground.**

**One time, our two families went on a camping trip in the mountains above Denver, Colorado. It was summer and the weather was absolutely beautiful. It was the perfect time for a fun campout. It was a very nice get-away with blue skies, warm weather and pretty green grass and tall trees. But, one this trip, something changed.**

**As we were setting up our tents, I noticed that a pine cone had fallen from a tree and hit me in the head. “Wow,” I thought, “These pine cones can come right off a tree with just the slightest amount of wind.” I didn’t think much about it until another pine cone fell and hit me on the shoulder. I told my children to be careful because a pine cone could fall any minute and hit them. They looked up at the trees and said, “Okay, dad, we will be careful.”**

**When a pine cone hit me in the back, one of my children pointed to his Uncle Thom and his cousin, Adam, and said, “Dad, I don’t think that pine cone came from a tree. Uncle Thom and Adam are laughing. I think they threw the pine cone at you.” I looked over at the two of them and sure enough, they were laughing their heads off. I pointed my finger at them and said, “What’s so funny? If you guys want a pine cone fight, just remember, I have four boys as part of my army.”**

**The next thing we knew was Thom and Adam bombarding us with pine cones left and right. It felt like pine cones were raining on us from the sky. We all ran for cover as quick as we could. From our hiding places we could hear the enemy chuckling and making fun of us. They thought we were a bunch of scared chickens.**

**I gathered my boys together and we made our plan. We all scampered around to find as many pine cones as we could. When we had our arms full, we started to make our way over to where Thom and Adam were. When we got there, they were no where to be found. Then, all of a sudden, pine cones started coming at us, hitting us in the head, shoulders, legs, back and chest. Where were they coming from? We couldn’t see. We just ran for our lives. When we stopped, we could hear the enemy laughing again. They were up in the trees above us. That is why we could not see them. They were bombing us because we were right under them at the time!**

**We quickly made another plan. This time we were going to sneak up behind their camp and surprise attack them. It was a great plan and we were really excited about getting back at those guys. We tip-toed toward their camp trying to be as quiet as we could. When we got close to their camp site, we started to get hit from our right side by heavy pine cone fire. It was Grandpa Thom throwing pine cones at us faster than an army machine gun. He was hidden behind a big fat tree. But, that was not going to stop us. We all unloaded our pine cones at him as fast as we could. We probably threw 50 pine cones but never hit him because he would duck behind the tree for protection.**

**Getting rid of all our ammunition was a big mistake. As soon as we had thrown all of our pine cones, we started getting hit from the other side. It was cousin Adam! He was throwing pine cones at us and we didn’t have any to throw back at him. We ran as fast as we could, but Adam was able to get in some very good hits.**

**Even though we had more fighters in our army, we decided that we could not out smart Grandpa Thom and your Uncle Adam. We made a surrender flag with a white handkerchief and went to Thom and Adam to seek peace. We told them that they won and we did not want to fight any more. We were happy when they accepted our surrender.**

**Twin Power is having fun with you aunts, uncles and cousins.**