**Grandpa Thom and the Wild Gunman**

**When Grandpa Thom and I were in high school we would sometimes work for a man that repossessed cars. To repossess a car means that the bank who loans someone money to purchase a car wants the car back when the person buying it stops making payments. If the bank is not getting the money the buyer promised to pay, then, they want the car back so they can sell it to someone else.**

**Sometimes the people buying the car would not give the car back and would ignore the bank’s request for the car. To get the cars back, the bank would hire a company to go take the car without the buyer knowing it. This meant that the man we worked for would go out in the middle of the night and find the car, try to unlock it, have us push it out to the street and then start the car and drive it way.**

**Grandpa Thom and I would be the helpers to push the car off the buyer’s property and to drive the car away. It was a dangerous job because sometimes the buyer would wake up and come out of their house to see what was happening with their car. Sometimes they would be very upset and want to fight you. We knew some other friends that also reposed cars that were beat up pretty bad when they were trying to take a car from a pretty rough neighborhood. One of our friends had to go to the hospital.**

**One night, Grandpa Thom was working with our boss and they were able to find a car they had been looking for. They had been looking for this particular car for many weeks. I was not with them that night, but Grandpa Thom told me all about it. The car was parked on the front lawn right under the bedroom window of the buyer. The good news was that they were able to get to the car and they were able to unlock it. The bad news was that as soon as they opened the car door, a very loud alarm went off. Grandpa Thom thought they should run and get out of there. Our boss said, “No, we’re taking this car. We have been looking for it for a long time.”**

**They pushed the car off the lawn and into the street with the alarm sounding so loud, different neighbors were waking up and turning on their house lights. When the car was in the street, Grandpa Thom got behind the steering wheel and our boss got his big car with a push bumper on it right behind him. He started to push the car down the road a few blocks and then, down a side street. The alarm was still blasting away. They opened the hood of the car to see if they could undo the alarm.**

**While they were working to undo the alarm, a car came speeding by the street they were on. It came to a screeching stop, backed up and then turned down the street where Grandpa Thom was. All of a sudden, a man jumps out of the car with his pajamas barely on and starts pointing a gun at Grandpa Thom and our boss. He was very, very upset and wanted his car back. Grandpa Thom was pretty scared and almost wet his pants! Our boss was able to talk to the crazy man and tell him that the car was no longer his. It belonged to the bank and he could not give it back. It was a brave thing to say to a mad man with a gun.**

**Fortunately, the man finally put his gun away, got back into his car and headed back to his house. Grandpa Thom and our boss were able to disconnect the alarm and head home. From that time on, we stopped working for our boss because we learned just how dangerous it could be.**

**Part of Twin Power is to make good choices and avoid danger.**