A Tribute to Ollie Sonnie Aagard, Sept.13, 1971
By Edna Turner

Uncle Sonnie was born in a time of trial. His mother, Bolette, our grandmother, was sent to Mendon, Cache, County to await the arrival of her baby. That was the time of Plural marriage problems with the government. He was born there and I am sure no child was ever loved more, partly because of the problems. Later they came back to Levan.

He must have been a happy child as he grew to be a happy man.

What are some of the attributes of a successful man? I would like to present a list I think are important and then determine if you think Uncel Sonnie had these qualities. He must have love ofr God and all of God's children. He must be honest, true, kind, thoughtful cheerful, generous, have faith in God, have c ourage and a sense of humor is important. He must leave the would better than he found it. And he should pass these qaulites on to his children.

Can anyone doubt that he had an aboundance of love for everyone? The Apostle Paul,said, "Though I speak with the tongue of men and angels and hath not love, I am as nothing." To have love you must give love. Uncle Sonnie gave love to sa many people, first his wife and children, and then to all his associates. I know if his children were speaking they would say of their father:

Fathers are such wonderful people, too little understood,
And we do not sing their praises as often as we should.
For Fathers struggles daily to love up to "His Image"
As protecter and provider and "hero of the scrimmage".--
And perhaps that is the reason we sometime get the notion
That Fathers are not subject to the thing we call emotion.
But if you look inside Dad's heart, where no one else can see,
You'll find he's sentimental and as soft as he can be.
But he's so busy every day in the gruelling race of life,
He leaves the sentimental stuff to his partner and his wife..
But Fathers are just wonderful in a million different ways,
And they merit loving compliments and accolades of praise.
For the onl reason Dad aspires to fortune and success
Is to make the family proud of him and to bring them happiness.
And like our Heavenly Father he's a guardian and a guide,
Someone that we can count on to be Always On Our Side.

He wanted his children to have all the important things, not just material things. He taught them that we are not put on earth to see how rich we could get, or how many fine homes we could pos sess, but we were put here to prepare ourselves for life hereafter, for he knew that when we stood before the judgment seat of God that He would not ask, "How rich are You?" but "Do you love me and what did you do for me". And this Uncle Sonnies children learned as you can judge fy their lives and the way they are teaching their children.

Patric Henry said it so well--"If I could give my children faith in God they would be rich. But if I gave them the whold world and not faith in God, they would be poor." This Uncle Sonnie gave to his children.

He believed in the words of Shakespear-- Unto thine own self be

true and it follows as the night the day, that thou can'st not be false to any man". I am sure he met every obligationthat was his and was true and honest in all his dealings with God and men. This might have been his creed...

A man is measured by his justice and right,
His fairness at his play,
His squareness in all dealings made,
His honest upright way.
These are his measures ever near
To serve him when he can;
For man's no bigger than the way
He treats his fellow man."

Was he kind and thoughtful? Each of you ask yourself if he had these qualities in his associations with you. If I should ask for an answer I am user I would get a resounding "Yes" He believed that in asking God on his knees to belss everybody was not half as manly as standing on your feet, reaching down and helping somebody.

I never remember him when he was not cheerful. I am sure he felt the weight of his problems many times, but he always showed a cheerful countenanceto others. As well as being cheerful he was a patient, hard working guy who never quite caught up with his dreams, but he was a guy who when he put his arms around you children and said the old familiar words you wanted to hear, you knew things would be alright. He believed that a wise man looks inside his heart for eternal peace.

He was generous to a fault. He would give the last thing away if someone needed it more -- I remember when I was a child, I wnnt to tned his childr n whild he and Aunt Sarah went to a social. Usually I got 15¢ for this but he gave me 50¢. I thought I was rich.

He had or developed an abundance of courage. He experienced plen y of times in his live when he needed it, but God in his wisdom knew he could stand it. Someone said, "Sorrow is a fruit. God does not make it grow on limbs too weak to bear it" I am sure all you remember when Aunt Sarah died in Wyoming and Uncle Sonnie came back with her body and all of his children, that she might be buried here. Many weaker men would have broken under the load left to him, but he picked up the pieces and went on. How hard the road was for him and his children. Later many other sadnesses came into his life when he lost his children and the other women who were his wives. He kept faith regardless of any disillusionments. He believed that "Happy is the man who knows what to remember in the past, what to enjoy in the present and what to plan for in the future" and we might add, "Wise is the man who can remember these things."

Emerson said, "See how many men worry themselves into a nameless grave, while here and there a great soul forgets himself into immortalit ." I feel sure Uncle Sonnie was one of these great sould. He probably never heard these words, "Service is the price we pay in rent, for the place we occupy on this earth" but he lived it. I haven't lived here for so long a time but I am sure he went the extra mile both in service to God and to his fellow men. I am sure he "met God in the morning when the day was at it's best, and he bid Him 'Goodnight' when he laid down to his rest."

I am sure Uncle Sonnie has more than met my list of requirements of a successful man. I am sure our Father in Heaven will say to him, "Welcome home, Son, thou hast been a good and faithful servant, enter into thy rest."

To the children I would like to say -- these are the words he might say to you.---

"When I must leave you for a little while-
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant smaile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same
Feed not your loneliness onenpty days,
But fill each working hour ~~xxx~~ in useful ways,
Reach out your heart in comfort ~~and~~in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you an hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For your mother and I are w iting for you in the sky.

may God bless you everyone. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.