SUGAR CITY — Ruth Hammond Barrus, 67, of Sugar City, died at her home Monday morning of cancer.

She was born June 15, 1912 at Rigby, the daughter of Milton James and Aroetta Louisa Hale Hammond.

She was married to Charles LaMar Barrus Sept. 28, 1934 at the Logan LDS Temple. Mrs. Barrus was a member of the Ricks College faculty from 1934 to 1977. She was a teacher of piano and organ and chairman of the Department of Humanities until her retirement. She was Idaho Mother of the Year in 1978. She delivered the Ricks College faculty honors lecture in 1976. She was named Distinguished Teacher by the Ricks Alumni Association in 1975, Outstanding Professor of the Year in 1970, World Who's Who of Women in 1974 and Personalities of the West and Midwest in 1971. She had received music awards including Music Woman of the Year, by the Idaho Falls Music Club in 1980, served as organist for the Rexburg LDS North Stake for 35 years, and in the Sugar LDS Ward for 30 years. She held many positions in the LDS Church and was Relief Society stake president of the Ricks College 2nd Stake and a temple worker at the time of her death. She recently completed a history of music heritage of 35 Idaho communities.

She had received a BA degree from Utah Stake University and a MA degree from Brigham Young University. She was a 1979 recipient of the Commissioners Fellowship of the LDS Church Educational System.

Survivors include her husband, LaMar of Sugar City; two brothers, Ronald C. Hammond of Las Vegas, Nev. and Merrill W. Hammond of St. George, Utah; one sister, Viola H. Hunksaker of Portland, Ore.; 17 grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Sugar City 1st Ward Chapel with the 1st Ward Bishopric officiating. The family will receive friends Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at Flamm Funeral Home and from noon to time for services Thursday at the church.

Burial will be at Sugar City Cemetery. Mrs. Barrus had requested the contributions be made to the Ricks College Organ Fund.

Mrs. Barrus had been a member of the Relief Society, the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and the American Retired Teacher's Association.

Idaho Falls, Idaho
Ruth Hammond Barrus, Distinguished Alumna and past Head of the Department of General Education in Humanities at Ricks College, recently presented a program depicting the musical heritage of the Rexburg area. Sister Barrus, who has been studying the Historical Musical Heritage of the Upper Snake River Valley for the past three years under a National Grant, is herself the daughter of a pioneer musician who early recognized her daughter's unique ability.

She has prepared a similar slide and statistical presentation for each of 33 communities in the valley, each one designed to reflect the musical heritage of that particular community. These presentations will be video taped at a future date for the use of students, library patrons and researchers.

Sister Barrus brought to this study a distinguished past as professor, department head, music teacher and widely acclaimed organist. She has a vast experience as a teacher in the Church and is known as a mother of distinction (she was Idaho Mother of the Year). During this long study, she surveyed 2,500 persons, including former Ricks students, area high school students and adults. Her lecture is enthusiastically received in each community. Sister Barrus said that she is particularly gratified to find statistical proof of the value of music in family life and in the academic life of children so blessed. She urges each community to continue to improve upon their heritage. Based on community standards elsewhere, the Upper Snake River Valley may be one of the most musically cultured in the nation.

"I have never ceased to find joy in passing to others the truths he and others so carefully gave me." Ruth H. Barrus
RUTH BARRUS of Sugar City, head of humanities at Ricks, received the Distinguished Teacher Award. Making the presentation was her son, Dr. LaMar Barrus, head of music at Ricks. Mrs. Barrus was cited as a great teacher of Ricks College who inspired youth with musical talent and deep spirituality, as a wife and mother and teacher of the gospel.
Humanities teacher is chosen to give Ricks honors lecture

Faculty members at Ricks College have selected Ruth Barrus, head of the department of humanities, to give the honors lecture at the Honors Banquet at Ricks Friday.

ALSO TO be named at the dinner are an outstanding faculty member and outstanding staff members, a news release from the college says. Retiring faculty members and staff workers also will be honored at the dinner at 7 p.m. in the Manwaring Center.

Mrs. Barrus has been at Ricks 42 years and has served as head of the humanities department for 15 years. She received the outstanding faculty award in 1970 and the Ricks Alumni Association's distinguished teacher award in 1975.

SHE HAS taught piano and organ lessons in the area and was head of organ studies at Ricks for a number of years, the news release says.

Mrs. Barrus of Sugar City is a graduate of Utah State University and received her master's degree from Brigham Young University.

THE RICKS Faculty Association, headed by Richard Stallings, sponsors the award dinner. Layne Deardon of the English department headed the selection committee, the news release says.
SUGAR CITY — Three area residents were honored by the Sugar City Council at its regular meeting Wednesday.

Appreciation plaques and citations, signed by Sugar council members, were presented to Mary Smith, city attorney, and Ruth Barrus and Erastus Weekes, both residents of Sugar City.

The plaques were presented to the three by Lyle H. Moon, Sugar City mayor.

The citation given to Weekes read:
"You have given many years of fine service to the city of Sugar. You have worked hard and have been devoted to your duty. For this, the many extra night hours, and the other times when you were called from your home in emergencies, we, the city council, would like to express our sincere thanks."

The council's citation for Mrs. Barrus read:
"We, the city council, would like to congratulate you on being chosen Idaho Mother of the Year. We express our appreciation for your contribution, your time, talents and the leadership you have rendered in the [LDS] church and community. We admire your devotion, guidance and the direction you have given to your fine family. You can take gratification in the accomplishments of your family. The community acknowledges the positive influence you have had through your teaching service. Your students and the people of the Upper Valley are better people because of your unselfish devotion.

"We would also like to commend LaMar [Barrus] for his leadership, service and the support he has given you. It is a pleasure to be associated with you. You are one of the reasons Sugar City is such a fine family community.

"We extend our best wishes to you in the national meeting, and in the responsibilities which have come with this valued recognition."

The final citation, given to Mrs. Smith, read:
"We, the city, council, extend congratulations to you on being chosen Madison County Woman of the Year. We express appreciation to you for the guidance and direction you have given us in the legal affairs of the city. You have been so kind, patient, understanding and so willing to devote many hours in helping to restore our community.

"We would also like to commend your family for sharing many of your evening hours with us. We couldn't have asked for any better service.

"Again our best wishes are with you in this respected recognition of a very special person."
Area woman receives honor as Idaho Mother of the Year

Ruth Hammond Barrus of Sugar City has been named Idaho Mother of the Year for 1978.

Mrs. Barrus was sponsored in the statewide competition by the Rexburg Civic Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

She will speak at the national finals in Iowa in May when the National Mother of the Year will be announced.

The Rexburg Civic Club will honor her April 3 at a reception. The time and place of the reception will be decided later.

Mrs. Barrus, who was a member of the Ricks College faculty for 43 years before retiring in 1977, is the wife of Charles LaMar Barrus of Sugar City. She is the mother of five children. Three are still living.

Marilyn Hansen, president of the civic club, says the purpose of the contest is to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of the home.

In the letter of nomination, the civic club said Mrs. Barrus and her husband were active in PTA and scouting with each of their boys receiving Eagle Scout awards. They went to church regularly as a family, the nomination said.

The nomination also said that Mrs. Barrus had spent 13 years caring for her invalid mother in her home, teaching her children by example the principles of sacrifice and service.

She married Mr. Barrus in 1934. Their three living children are Dr. C. LaMar Barrus, head of the Ricks music department, LaRue B. Gee of Logan, Utah, and Dr. Clym Barrus, a principal violist with the Minnesota Orchestra and conductor of the Minneapolis Civic Symphony and Youth Symphony. They have 17 grandchildren.

Ruth Hammond Barrus
Sister Barrus honored

Sister Ruth Hammond Barrus and Dr. Dillon K. Inouye have been designated as recipients of the Sixth Annual Commissioner's Research Fellowship Award for the academic year 1979-80, according to Dr. Jeffrey R. Holland, Commissioner of the Church Educational System.

Dr. Inouye is an assistant professor in the College of Education at Brigham Young University and a member of the David O. McKay Institute there. Sister Barrus is former head of the Humanities Department at Ricks College.

Now retired, Sister Ruth Barrus taught English, piano and organ at Ricks on a part-time basis from 1934 until 1957, and then as a full-time faculty member until 1977. She resides in Sugar City, Idaho.

Mrs. Barrus' research will document the unique LDS musical heritage of Southeastern Idaho, from pioneer beginnings to the present.

She received her B.A. degree from Utah State University and her M.A. degree in Organ and English Literature from Brigham Young University in 1966. She is included in "Who's Who in the West," "Who's Who of Women," and "Outstanding Educators of America" and was named Professor of the Year at Ricks in 1970. In 1978 she was chosen as Mother of the Year for the state of Idaho.

Program recalls Clark County's musical heritage

DUBOIS — Clark County's musical heritage will be discussed at 8 p.m. Sept. 30 in a program at the Lindy Ross Elementary School.

Mrs. Hugh Webster of Dubois has been supervising collection during the last year of musical materials from the county's past. The program will be narrated by Ruth H. Barrus, of the Department of Humanities at Ricks College.
Mrs. Ruth Barrus has feature in Ensign

SUGAR — An outstanding article, "The Teacher's Gift," written by Ruth H. Barrus, appears in the April issue of the "Ensign."

"A man who had a cello with a single string used to bow on it for hours at a time, always holding his finger in the same place. His wife endured this for months. Finally in desperation, she said, "I have observed that when others play that instrument there are four strings, and the players move their fingers about continuously."

"Of course the others have four strings and move their fingers about constantly," he explained patiently, "They are looking for the place. I have found it."

"When I think of this community, this valley, and this people, I repeatedly express joy that "this place" was found for me and when I examine the tune I have played throughout my life I find it to have been most repetitious but, I think, important."

THIS EXCERPT was taken from the introduction to an outstanding talk given by Ruth H. Barrus recently telling of parents' sacrifices and dedication in bringing music to our valley in pioneer days and the development of her and her family's musical talents through constant effort and challenge. From 1898 to this day, this valley has benefited musically from the talents of Retta Hale Hammond and Milton James Hammond and their descendants.

Teaching young girls to play the old treadle organ in a log chapel in Marysville was the beginning for Ruth's mother, Retta, while her husband taught school. They moved to Tetonia later, where they owned one of the first pianos coming into the area. This piano served the whole community and was loaded onto wagon or sledge and taken to a dance at church or school, where "Retta on the piano and her oldest sons Ronald and Ralph on their violins would perform the music for the dance."

Travelling by horse and buggy into outlying rural areas she went from house to house giving music lessons, giving hundreds of people musical development. Widowed, and having buried four of her ten children, Retta considered herself a pioneer musician and paid for Ruth's first piano lessons by cleaning the teacher's house once each week.

Her older brothers, too, made many sacrifices to provide musical training with the best teachers available through the years for Ruth, and during her junior year of high school she was admitted to Ricks College where her training continued on the organ under William Billeter. From there she received her degree from Utah State at Logan, and in 1934 married LaMar Barrus. At this time she was asked to take over the piano and organ studies at Ricks. Countless sacrifices have been made on the part of her unselfish husband to further her musical education, an example of which is a period of one year in Midvale, Utah when opportunity came to study with Frederic Dixon, it took nearly half their monthly income to pay for the lessons.

Dedication and self-discipline have characterized the life of Ruth H. Barrus through her years of learning and teaching others music. She is to be commended for her activities and service to the Upper Valley and for her outstanding influence in this musical and family heritage are her three living children Dr. LaMar Barrus also of Ricks College, Mrs. Martell Gee (LaRue) of Provo, Dr. Clyn Barrus, famous violinist who is teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Rexburg, Idaho

APR 6 1972
Musical heritage

Rexburg shown in program

The musical heritage of the Rexburg area will be presented at a special meeting Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m., in the Classroom-Office Building, Room 240, Ricks College. The public is invited.

The Ricks College Upper Snake River Valley Music Teachers Association is sponsoring the program which will feature Mrs. Ruth Barrus who has been working on a special project for the past three years.

"She has been searching the records and compiling a history of the musical heritage of the Upper Snake River Valley, and is bringing this heritage into focus in 33 separate oral and slide presentations in as many communities," said Eileen Wilcox, president.

"The musical heritage of the Rexburg area has arisen from a rare combination of outstanding leadership through Ricks College and a dedicated support from community leaders.

"The musical heritage of this whole valley has been made possible because of high dreams, great sacrifices and unity of effort, and the uniqueness of each of our roles in this great musical heritage can be sensed by attending the Rexburg-Ricks College Musical Heritage Presentation Nov. 3," the association president added.

There will be oral and slide presentations, special musical numbers, and charts and reports which reveal the effect music has had on the lives of more than 2,500 persons, including former Ricks students, area adults, and area high school students.
After the music

Under the guiding hands of Ida Mae Cook, left, Verla Webster and Ruth Barrus, a recent Friday program in Dubois examined the musical heritage of Clark County. The program featured discussions, slides, and, of course, a generous helping of the meeting's subject — music.
Time out for visit

Idaho's Mother of the Year, Ruth Barrus of Sugar City, center, takes time out for a visit with her granddaughter, Kimberly Gee of Logan, Utah, right. Sadie DeGlee of Twin Falls, 1977 Idaho Mother of the Year, also seems to be enjoying making a new acquaintance. Mrs. Barrus was honored for her achievements at a tea at the Golden Living Center Monday. She was nominated for the state honor by the Rexburg Civic Improvement Club.
Three great forces have shaped the life of Ruth Barrus: her family, the Church, and Ricks College. Toward each she has exemplified a spirit of sacrifice, devotion and dedication that has made her an exemplary beacon of inspiration for thousands. Her service to Ricks College and its students for over 41 years has been one of the great forces shaping the cultural standards which now exist on the campus, in the community, and in the Church.

Ruth was privileged to be born into a family devoted to service through music. Her mother brought one of the first pianos into the Upper Snake River Valley, and taught some of the first music lessons in the area. Her musical children formed a dance orchestra that played for dances throughout the valley. Ruth was a vital part of this activity; but her training did not remain within the home. Her mother constantly sought out the greatest teachers available in the area and provided any sacrifice needed to assure to Ruth the quality training essential to musical growth. Ruth's early training was shaped by some of the finest musicians to be found in the West.

After graduating from Utah State University in 1934, she married C. LaMar Barrus of Sugar City, in the Logan Temple. From this union came five children, three of whom are living: LaMar, Jr., who is presently Music Department Coordinator at Ricks College, LaRue (Mrs. Martell Gee), who is active in music in Dayton, Ohio, and Clyn, who is principal violist with the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra.

Ruth began her teaching career at Ricks College the year of her marriage. She taught piano and organ -- not only at Ricks College, but throughout the community. She often traveled throughout the valley giving lessons to students in their own homes. These early years of teaching bore great fruit, and her students became leading musicians in their own communities and throughout the Church. Alexander Schreiner recently introduced Ruth at a convention of organ teachers as: "... an individual who has trained more fine organists than any other teacher in the Church." The number of students who can trace their musical training back to Ruth Barrus is literally in the thousands.

While at Ricks College, Ruth taught not only music, but was active in the English Department for many years. Her Master Degree was obtained in English Literature from BYU in 1966. This breadth of training and knowledge led her into the foundation of a unique program in the humanities, which grew from one class to a department offering courses to over 1,000 students each year. Countless numbers of students today give testimony of the influence which Ruth Barrus exerted in their lives by opening their eyes to a world of beauty and culture which they never realized exists.

Ruth has received many honors in her music and her teaching, among them the Outstanding Young Faculty Award for Ricks College in 1970. Her greatest rewards come, however, as she observes her family and her students growing in their love of the Lord and His Church, and in their love of the beauties of this world which the Lord has provided to spiritually edify His children.