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MUSICAL ARTIST

By Steve Brookman

The arts in Western Oklahoma have involved many outstanding individuals, but none more influential than Mrs. Ruth L. Nichols.

Mrs. Nichols taught vocal music for sixteen years in Watonga and twelve years in Clinton School. She also taught private piano lessons after school hours. Thousands of Western Oklahomans were introduced to the musical arts through Mrs. Nichols.

The memories that continue with most of her students are not the scales, chords, or quarter notes. Mrs. Nichols went far beyond just music theory. She influenced her students for life by instilling qualities such as perfection, self-discipline, and perseverance.

Since retirement in 1966, Mrs. Nichols has continued to teach private lessons in her home. Her students



Mrs. Ruth Nichols of Clinton, Oklahoma

were and are among the best in terms of piano-playing talent. They have won and continue to win regional and state piano honors. She can be most proud of inspiring young people to strive for excellence.

I'm an adult now and have sons of my own, and I hope someday they can have the opportunity of a dedicated piano teacher. Mrs. Nichols not only taught me and in-

spired me—she gave me a love and appreciation for music. I never see a piano without thinking of those hours of practice, those lessons, and Mrs. Nichols. Her contribution to the musical arts and inspiring of young people will live long. So Mrs. Nichols, we give you hugs and kisses and many thanks! *

(STEVE BROOKMAN, formerly of Clinton, is a chemist in Edmond.)