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PRESS RELEASE

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**IMMEDIATE USE
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**2007 KANSAS FACTUAL STORY CONTEST
NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF KANSAS
OLIVE ANN BEECH MEMORIAL AWARDS**

Entries are being accepted for the 2007 Kansas Factual Story Contest. The annual contest, sponsored by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas, encourages preserving in writing of factual, unpublished happenings and anecdotes in the lives of Kansans. Olive Ann Beech, of Wichita, provided cash awards for winners for over thirty years. Following her death, this support has been continued by her daughter, Mary Lynn Oliver, of Wichita.

Beech Memorial Cash Awards are: 1st place, \$175; 2nd place, \$125; 3rd place, \$100; and \$50 each for two honorable mentions. Entrants are asked to keep copies of their entries; none will be returned. All stories may be preserved in the Manuscript Department of the Kansas State Historical Society.

CONTEST RULES ARE SIMPLE. Stories should have taken place in Kansas in earlier days; be limited to 750 words; be true and not have been published. The contest is open to anyone. Only one story may be entered per person. Entries are received from throughout the United States. ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 9, 2006.

A panel from the Kansas State Historical Society will judge the stories. Winners will be announced at the annual meeting of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas at the Maner Conference Center in Topeka on Friday, January 26, 2007. The banquet is open to all who wish to join for an evening to honor the Great State of Kansas. Distinguished Kansans will also be honored at the event.

This contest encourages the preservation of stories which provide a glimpse into the lives and times of the real world of Kansans in times past, stories which might not otherwise be preserved by the written word. The stories give poignant and humorous insight into the lives of Kansans.

Winners for 2006 were: 1st, Donna J. Adey, Minneapolis, Kansas; 2nd, Thelma Allendorf, Topeka; 3rd place, Karen Haag, Emporia; Honorable Mention: George Paris, Topeka, and Beryl H. Roberts, Denver, CO.

Entries and questions c/o June Windscheffel, Contest Chairman, 1100 SW Belle Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66604-2043. Telephone: 785/272-2831.