

The True Story Of James Herman Banning: The Inspiring Journey Of The First African American Pilot To Fly

History has witnessed many great pioneers who defied societal norms and broke barriers to fulfill their dreams. James Herman Banning is one such remarkable figure, a trailblazer who ventured into the skies when the world seemed to be tethered to the ground. Daring, determined, and undeniably talented, Banning defied the odds to become the first African American pilot to soar through the skies, leaving an indelible mark on aviation history.



Rising Above Adversity

Born on November 5, 1899, in Oklahoma, James Herman Banning grew up in a time when racial segregation gripped the United States. His early years were marked by challenges and discrimination, but he never allowed adversity to

hinder his dreams. With a burning passion for aviation, Banning set his sights on becoming a pilot, even though the odds seemed stacked against him.



Sprouting Wings: The True Story of James Herman Banning, the First African American Pilot to Fly Across the United States

by Shari Becker (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 29646 KB

Print length : 48 pages

Screen Reader : Supported



Banning's journey into aviation began in Los Angeles, where he became fascinated by planes. In a time when African Americans were largely excluded from aviation institutions and opportunities, Banning sought out a mentor in Thomas C. Allen, a popular aviator and airplane instructor. Allen recognized Banning's potential and took him under his wing, teaching him the intricacies of flying.



The Skyward Journey

Banning's first breakthrough came in 1932 when he successfully obtained his private pilot's license, making him the first African American to achieve this milestone. Undeterred by the racial prejudices prevalent in society, he transcended discrimination and pursued his passion with unwavering determination.

The aviation community began to take notice of Banning's skills and perseverance. He entered air shows and competitions, showcasing his abilities as a pilot. In 1932, he participated in the prestigious Los Angeles to Cleveland Air

Race, a grueling cross-country aerial marathon. Despite facing numerous challenges during the race, Banning displayed a remarkable display of skill and resilience.

The breakthrough moment of Banning's career came in 1932, when he embarked on an ambitious solo flight from Los Angeles to Long Island, New York. This historic journey made Banning the first African American pilot to fly coast-to-coast. Overcoming countless obstacles, including engine failures and hazardous weather conditions, Banning completed the arduous 3,300-mile journey in 41 hours and 27 minutes.



Inspiring a Generation

Banning's groundbreaking achievements opened doors for aspiring African American aviators across the nation. His courage and tenacity inspired a generation of young African Americans to pursue their dreams in aviation, igniting a passion that would forever change the landscape of the industry.

Banning's immense contributions to aviation did not end with his historic flight. He went on to co-found the Bessie Coleman Aero Club, an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for African American pilots. Through the club, Banning paved the way for countless black aviators, helping them gain the necessary training and licenses to pursue careers in aviation.



A Lasting Legacy

Tragically, James Herman Banning's life was cut short in a plane crash on February 6, 1933, at the young age of 33. His untimely demise shocked the aviation community and left a void that could never truly be filled. However, his legacy lives on, a testament to the indomitable spirit of a man who defied the odds and proved that dreams can become a reality.

Banning's extraordinary achievements did not receive the recognition they truly deserved during his lifetime, as racial discrimination stifled his accomplishments. However, his story continues to inspire generations of aviators and history enthusiasts, shedding light on the resilience, talent, and triumphs of an extraordinary individual.

James Herman Banning's legacy serves as a reminder that barriers can be broken, that dreams can soar beyond limitations, and that diversity and inclusion are integral to progress. His story reminds us that the sky has no boundaries, and those who dare to dream can achieve the impossible.



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The inspirational and true story of James Herman Banning, the first African American pilot to fly across the country, comes to life in this picture book biography perfect for fans of Hidden Figures and Little Leaders. Includes art from a Coretta Scott King award-winning illustrator.

James Herman Banning always dreamed of touching the sky. But how could a farm boy from Oklahoma find a plane? And how would he learn to fly it? None of

the other pilots looked like him. Despite the challenges and prejudices that stood in his way, James knew he belonged above the clouds.

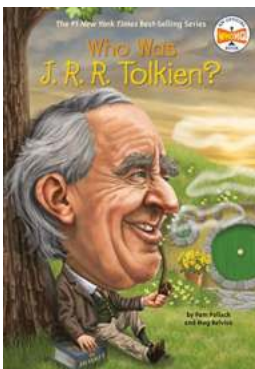
In a journey that would span 3,300 miles, take twenty-one days, and inspire a nation, James Herman Banning proved that you can't put barriers on dreams. Louisa Jaggar incorporates over seven years of research, including Banning's own writings and an interview with the aviator's great-nephew. She teams up with cowriter Shari Becker and award-winning illustrator Floyd Cooper to capture Banning's historic flight across the United States.

"A pathos-filled picture book that celebrates the life of a figure in American history who hasn't been featured often." -School Library Journal, Starred Review



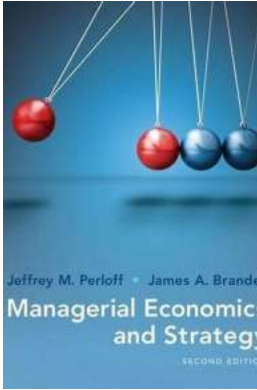
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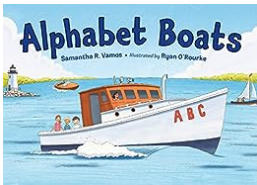
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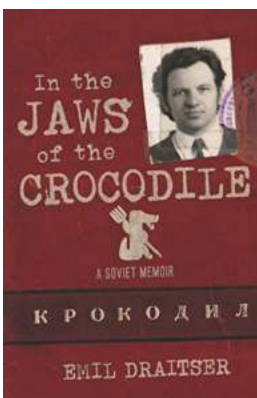
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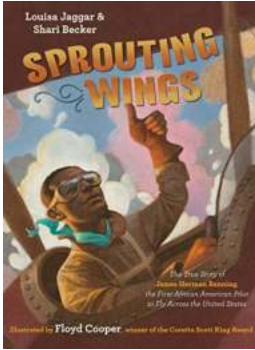
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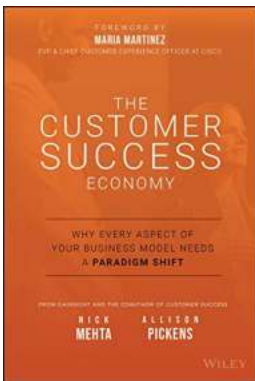
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