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Oklahoma Aviator's Life Featured In Tulsa Library Exhibit

Posted: Feb 09, 2017 11:46 AM CST Updated: Feb 10, 2017 5:12 PM CST

BY: DEE DUREN, NEWSON6.COM [EMAIL](#)



TULSA, Oklahoma - Have you ever heard of James Herman Banning? The Oklahoma native was the first African-American to fly across the continental United States.


He did it in a plane he built himself, according to Alicia Latimer, African-American Resource Center Coordinator for Tulsa City-County Library System.

Banning, born in 1899 in Oklahoma, learned to fly in Iowa after his family moved there. He was the first black aviator to obtain a license from the U.S. Department of Commerce, [EarlyAviators.com](#) states.


The "Fly With Banning" exhibit on display now at Rudisill Regional Library tells some of the Greatest Stories Never Told, Latimer said. Banning died at an air show with another pilot at the controls.

The Banning exhibit will be in the lobby through March 10, 2017. It's free and open to the public at 1520 North Hartford Avenue.

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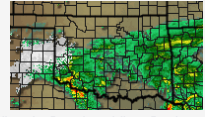
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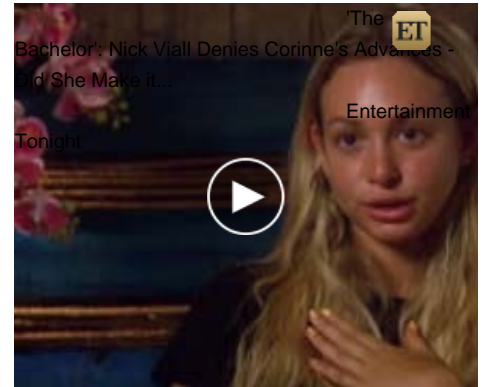
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Kenneth Bingham
My question would be...Who cares? He didn't make the first flight...That was done by Calbraith Rodgers.
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Jasson Hornsey · Works at None of your Business

The definitely could have chosen something else exhibit, for example superman. Anything but that.

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Rhonda G. Couch · Vian, Oklahoma

Kenneth Bingham...you are right Calbraith Rodgers did make the first transcontinental flight. But if you would have "read" the article, you would have found that James Hedrman Banning was the "first African-American" to fly coast to coast.

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Kenneth Bingham

Rhonda G. Couch And I say again....So what? Just because a person from a different race does the same thing does not mean they should be celebrated. It's already been done and recorded...find something that hasn't been done and conquer that.

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Sunny Morgan · UC Berkeley

Now that's cool!

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Malc Dekab

cool

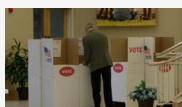
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