



**JAMES BANNING (1899-1933)  
AND THOMAS ALLEN (1907-1989)**

Mr. Banning and Mr. Allen were the first African American aviators to fly across the United States. They flew from Los Angeles to New York. Mr. Banning and Mr. Allen faced many dangers such as wind, hail, sleet, rain, thunder and lightning. They stopped many times along the way and people would help them and cheer them on. The flight took 21 days and covered a distance of 3,300 miles. Mr. Banning and Mr. Allen are from Oklahoma.