



Bessie Coleman was trained and licensed to pilot a plane in France in 1921. She established a flight school for blacks, raising money for the venture by performing aviation stunts. She bought three airplanes and began touring the country. She tragically died on April 30, 1926 in a plane crash.

the coveted 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Literature. Although the youngest of eight children and the daughter of Georgia sharecroppers, her literary focus has been on her good experiences as a black woman in America. Alice Walker's efforts in literature have drawn her praise throughout the world as a loyal readership patiently awaits her next novel.

Bessie Coleman

Have you ever dreamed of being a pilot? Born in 1922, this Black woman would show us all how to manifest that dream, no matter what the odds. As the twelfth of thirteen children born to poor and illiterate parents, Bessie Coleman grew up with a passion for learning. Two times a year, a traveling library wagon would pass through their little town. Her mother bought what few books her meager earnings could afford. Bessie would learn how to read and later finished high school. Working as a manicurist by day and managing a chili parlor at night, she saved her money. She wanted to learn how to fly. As a black woman, America refused her this right. Not willing to give up, she earned enough money to go to France. When she returned, she was the world's first black woman pilot. From 1922 to 1926 she flew exhibitions, saving every nickel she could to open up a school for black pilots. Her plans were suddenly cut short when she had a fatal accident.

During a nosedive from 3500 feet at one hundred and ten miles an hour her plane could not come out of the turn, leading to a fatal crash. She was hailed as a heroine who taught black women to never give up their dreams. Every Memorial Day, pilots fly over the place where Bessie Coleman had died and throw flowers to the ground in her memory.

Toni Morrison

Toni Morrison once said, "My world did not shrink because I was a black female. It just got bigger." After a divorce, Toni Morrison once said it was in her times of sadness, loneliness and depression that got her writing as a form of healing. Late at

night when the kids were asleep in their beds, a young woman born Chloe Anthony Wofford began putting the ink on the paper. These dark and lonely nights as she described them helped transform this single parent into what many consider the best black female writer of all times. Toni has written numerous books and even shocked the world as the first black woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Her accomplishments as a writer and an educator highlight her not only as a tribute to her race, but also as a role model for aspiring young authors across all minority "plains." From her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, to her prize-winning *Beloved*, and beyond, one can only guess what she will come up with next. The breadth and depth of her writing truly does show her world getting bigger all the time.

Madam C.J. Walker

If you could invest one day's wages to become the richest person in the world, would you do it? That was the risk that Madam C.J. Walker took in the very early 1900's. Her investment of a single day's wages to try an experiment made her the richest Black woman in the world in her time. Before this, Madam Walker suffered from too much bad luck. She lost both her parents at the age of six, was married by the time she was 14, bore a daughter and became a widow before she was twenty. This was all followed by eighteen years of

back breaking, dirty laundry work that paid her only \$1.50 per day. Fed up, she risked a little money on an experiment that revolutionized the hair care industry. Her "solutions" would soften a Black woman's hair and her specialized curling iron could straighten it. Black women could finally have long, silky, smooth hair. These items along with a line of Walker's designer toiletries made her the first African American millionaire in the world.

Shirley Chisholm


Staring at a large crowd of white men, Shirley Chisholm

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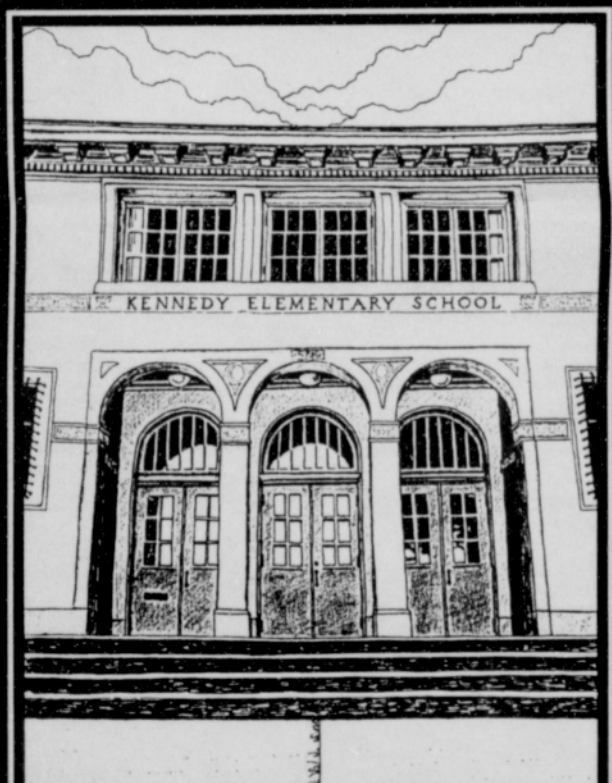



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