

ZACK MOSLEY

Artist/Writer,
Shawnee

**OKLAHOMA
ARTIST**

**OKLAHOMA
WRITER**



Zack Mosley's "Smilin' Jack" was the most popular and longest-lived adventure strip about flying. It was created in 1933 and ran 40 years.

He was born in Hickory, Indian Territory, in 1906, a year before the area became part of the new state of Oklahoma. In childhood he became fascinated with airplanes and began sketching them.

At the age of 20, he enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago. Three years later, he was an assistant on the Buck Rogers and Skyroads comic strips. In 1933 he began taking flying lessons and created his own comic strip which made its debut October 2 as On the Wing in the Chicago Tribune. Its title was changed to Smilin' Jack beginning with the Dec. 30 episode.

The strip eventually became a radio and movie serial and was featured in comic books and Big Little books.

Mosley became a licensed pilot in 1936 and was one of the founders of the Civil Air Patrol in 1941. He flew over 300 anti-sub patrols of the Atlantic Coast in World War II. For the latter, he received the U.S Air Medal.

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