

NARRATIVE TEXTS



J.C. Petmecky's gun shop, Austin, 1925; J.C. is seated; behind him is Howell Petmecky (at left) and Robert Felix.

Work

One of the shared beauties of Texas and Texans is that everyone has to overcome difficulties on the road to success. Granted, some Texans face much tougher obstacles than others and encounter barriers of different kinds—language, ethnic stereotyping, educational opportunity, poverty, traditional gender roles—but the heroes take steady steps and move each generation a little farther up the ladder. “Texan” is an earned title.



The (Polish) John Dugosh family making molasses in Bandera, c. 1910



Family picking cotton in a field near East Bernard, before 1920

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*Cowboys moving cattle through
a chute, Refugio, c. 1950*



*Men working the rock quarry
near Muldoon*



*African American farmer
plowing near Nixon, c. 1920*

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*Earl Mayes, saddlemaker at the
San Antonio livestock market,
December 1939*



*Men hauling hay near
Gonzalez, July 30, 1924*

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Certificate from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale granting Bessie Coleman a pilot's license, June 15, 1921. Born in Atlanta, Texas, she was the first black person in the world to earn a pilot's license.



Cambodian women sewing together, San Antonio, 1982

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*Crescent City Grocery Store,
Beaumont, 1905; Italian
Texans Joseph Barranco and
brother-in-law Frank Liberto*