

Act 4

Daniel Tompkins: Lewis Hine and Leonora Barry sure started trouble the day they came to the mill. The NCLC just didn't stop pestering people. They had some weird idea that all children should go to school. They said it was dangerous for them to work. Did you ever hear such nonsense? In 1938, the government bowed down to this pressure. They passed the Federal Fair Labor Act. We couldn't hire small children anymore to keep our costs down. It hurt us to have the government sticking its nose into our business.

Mr. Newman: Even though I couldn't read it myself, I was proud the day we got the letter from the NCLC. The best surprise was how I found out what the letter said.

Roberta: Roberta and I also got copies of that letter. We were now mothers and still lived pretty close to Papa. My oldest child was just seven. That was the same age I was when I first had to go to work at the mill.

Pauline: There was also an article about it in our local newspaper.



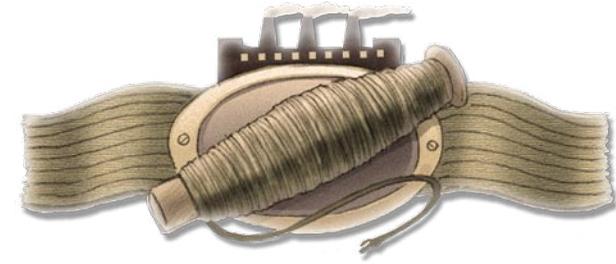
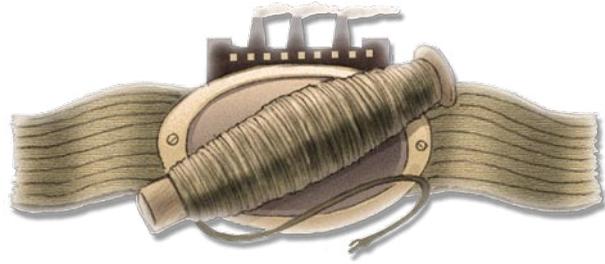
Daniel Tompkins: That newspaper article made my blood boil! That was how I found out that the pictures of Pauline and Roberta Newman helped NCLC's cause. If I'd only known what happened that night, I would have fired those girls on the spot! When I heard that they were going to be honored at a ceremony, I was fuming!

Roberta: I couldn't wait to see Papa. My girls wanted him to come to the ceremony as well, and I wanted nothing more than that myself. Pauline and I, with all our children, ran over to see him. He was staring at the letter when we came in. I knew he couldn't read it.

Mr. Newman: I'm so glad to see all of you. I wonder what this letter is about. I was thinking of asking Mrs. Jenkins next door to read it to me.

Roberta: No, Papa, that won't be necessary. I have a surprise for you.

Mr. Newman: What is it?



Roberta: Right then and there, my seven-year-old daughter read the entire letter to her grandpa. His eyes welled up with tears the whole time. I have never seen him look so proud. I honestly don't know what made him happier. Was it that his granddaughter was going to school and could now read, or that we were being honored? I'll probably never know. But, I can tell you one thing. We celebrated that day like we never had before.

Lewis Hine: Dear Herbert, Pauline, and Roberta Newman,

Several weeks ago, the U.S. federal government passed the Federal Fair Labor Act. This Act contains strict child labor laws that will protect all the children of our country. It will apply to every state in the U.S. Our hard work has finally paid off.

Leonora Barry: We are writing this letter to congratulate you on the crucial part you have played in the passage of this important act. It was the stories and the pictures of the child laborers and their families all across America that moved government officials to act on behalf of our children. It is because of people like you that future generations will be safeguarded.

Lewis Hine: We would like to invite you to a special ceremony. At the ceremony, we will honor the children and their families whose photographs and stories have meant so much to this country. This ceremony will take place at the end of September. A letter containing all of the details will soon follow.

Leonora Barry: Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Leonora Barry and Lewis Hine,
National Child Labor Committee