I. Alice P. Evitt (1 min 31 sec)

Alice P. Evitt was born in 1898 and began working at the cotton mills near Charlotte, North Carolina in 1910 when she was 12 years old. She worked 12 hours a day, every day except Sunday, and earned 25 cents a day for her work. Here, she talks about wanting to experience the fun of a parade along with all the other children.

**Alice P. Evitt:**

Well, now right after I went to work—I was young, spinnin' there at the Highland Park mill—I worked at night a little bit. They got me to work at night. They had a parade here the twentieth of May. They had that big parade here when I was young. Of course, young people, young as I was, was goin' to go to that parade. I did and I didn't get to sleep none that day much. So that night I went to work, and I asked 'em to let me off. They wouldn't do it, and I got so sleepy in the night, I couldn't hold my eyes open. They wouldn't let me off, and I just quit and went home

[laughter]

and we moved.

Cotton Mills

child workers

The early cotton mills of NC were always full of young people. The mills built before the Civil War hired moslty young women, since young men could easily make more money working on a farm. Occasionally a young boy was hired at the factory. If he worked hard, the owners might train him to be a boss. The decline of farming after Reconstruction left young men with fewer opportunities. Thousands of young men came with their families to the factories in towns like Concord and Gastonia. By the 1890's, the majority of the cotton mill workers in the state were male. By 1900, child labor was used in just about every cotton mill in the state.

Eyewitness accounts



Life in a Cotton Mill

***We need to stop child labor in Cotton Mills for GOOD!!! Let’s work together to get this done!***

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