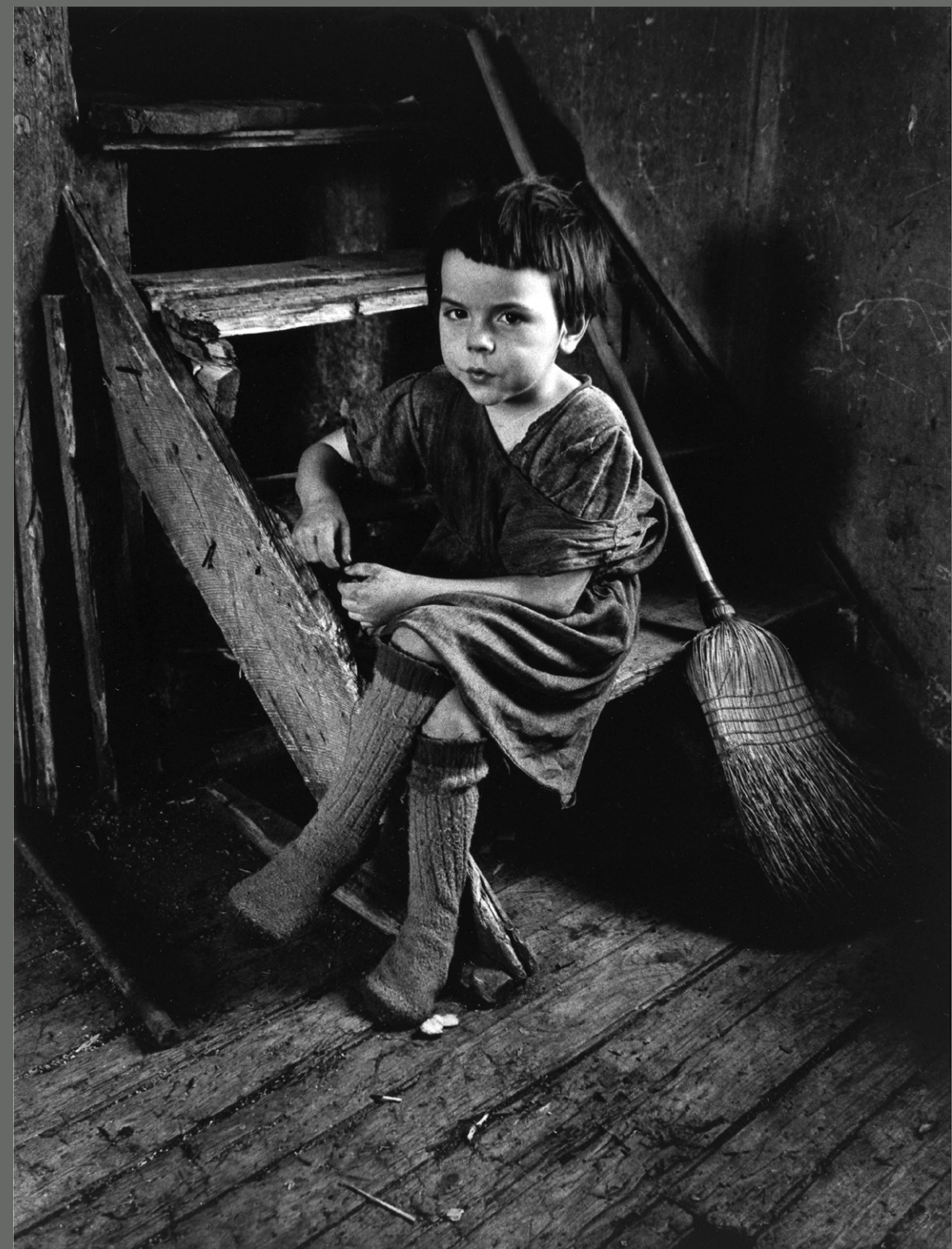


Mid-century lens The National Film Board of Canada's still photos, 1941-71

Over the 30-year period from the Second World War to the 1970s, photographers commissioned by the National Film Board produced what Carleton University art professor Carol Payne calls "a governmentally endorsed portrait of Canadian society." Catering to Ottawa's propagandist impulses, thousands of photographs of everyday life were reproduced in newspapers, magazines and exhibitions, promoting Canada and Canadian life. Payne's book rescues some of the best from file drawers, revealing a narrative of a country coming of age in the mid-20th century and providing insight into the role photography played in forging a national identity. The following photographs are reproduced from *The Official Picture: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division and the Image of Canada, 1941-1971* (Montreal, QC and Kingston, ON: McGill-Queen's University Press, June 2013).

À la demande de l'Office national du film, des photographes ont dressé durant 30 ans, de la Seconde Guerre mondiale aux années 1970, ce que la professeure d'art Carol Payne appelle « un portrait de la société canadienne approuvé par le gouvernement ». Répondant à un besoin de propagande d'Ottawa, des milliers de photographies de la vie quotidienne ont été reproduites dans des journaux, des revues et des expositions de l'époque, faisant l'éloge du Canada et de son mode de vie. Le livre de Payne en a tiré de l'oubli quelques-unes des meilleures, qui racontent un pays arrivant à la maturité au milieu du 20^e siècle et qui illustrent le rôle qu'a joué cet art dans la construction de l'identité nationale. Les photographies qui suivent sont tirées du livre *The Official Picture: The National Film Board of Canada's Still Photography Division and the Image of Canada, 1941-1971*.



St Nil, Gaspé, 1965.
Photograph, Michel Lambeth.



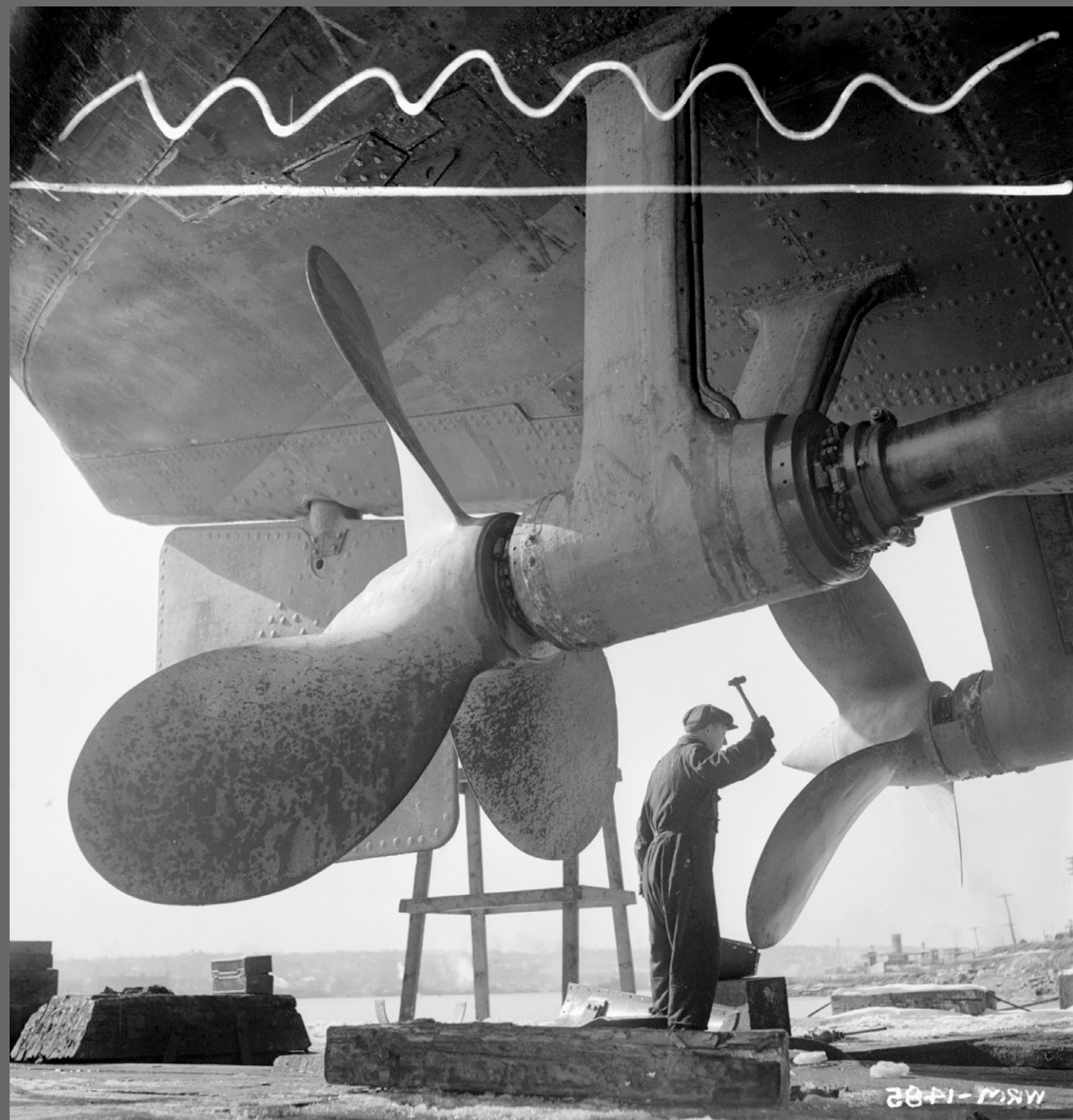
“Céline and Roberte Perry, two employees of the Dominion Arsenals plant, pray at their bedside before going to bed,” Quebec City, 24 August 1942.

Annotations for photo cropping made by NFB staff.
Photograph, Harry Rowed.



“Mrs. E. Marr, physiotherapist, with Dorothy Gifford, 2½, at the walking bars in the polio clinic, Sudbury General Hospital, Sudbury, Ont.,” March 1953.

Photograph, Chris Lund.



"A workman with a hammer repairs a ship's propeller at a Halifax shipyard,"
Halifax, April 1942.

Annotations for photo cropping made by NFB staff.
Photograph, Harry Rowed.



"Woman worker [Céline Perry] for the Dominion Arsenals Ltd. munitions plant has a date with her boyfriend,"
24 August 1942.

Annotations made on the negative by NFB staff.
Photograph, Harry Rowed.



“View of woman shopping in a millinery store in Montreal,” August 1965, *The People Tree*.
Photograph, Pierre Gaudard.



“Cecilia Butler, former night club singer and dancer now employed as a reamer in the Small Arms Ltd. Section of the John Inglis Company munitions plant,” Toronto, December 1943.
Photograph uncredited.