

stricken by mercury poisoning, said to have been used by the wastes from a chemical firm in her native Minamata, a town in Kyushu, the southernmost main Japanese land.

On her 20th birthday, in 1971, her hands and feet were distorted, she was bedridden, and she weighed little more than child, 46 pounds.

On Aug. 25 this year, 18 years after her travail began, she died in a Minamata hospital of pneumonia. Within a few hours in the same day, 84 year-old Kasajiro Hiraki, also being treated for the effects of mercury poisoning, died too.



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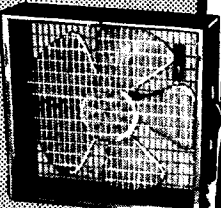
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