

# Hope Ebbs in Hunt for Girl

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about 400 feet below its mouth.

State police said it seemed that Ruth Ann had fallen to the 400-foot slab and was then buried beneath the cap, which fell into the shaft when rescue workers tried to remove it.

Rescue operations began Saturday night when the girl's brother, Gary, 10, told his parents Ruth Ann had plunged into the shaft when the ground gave way. The children had been picking berries near the mouth of the mine, abandoned in 1931.

1966 Abandoned mine fall of 7 year old

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## 7-Year-Old Girl Falls Into Abandoned Mine

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## End of Search For Girl's Body Results in Strike

CALUMET, Mich. (AP) — Workers at the Calumet Division of Calumet & Hecla, Inc., staged a short strike Wednesday, protesting the end of the search for a 7-year-old girl.

The girl, Ruth Ann Miller, fell into one of the company's abandoned mines Saturday. The search was called off Tuesday. It had become apparent that the lives of miners trying to find her body were endangered by the deteriorated condition of the mile-deep mine shaft.

Hope for the girl's life was abandoned earlier.

Miners walked off their jobs earlier Wednesday, but returned after talking with union and company officials and learning of a letter from the girl's family.

Ruth Ann's stepfather, Eugene Taylor, wrote:

"Mrs. Taylor and I are deeply disturbed by reports of dissatisfaction by some people with the decision to discontinue efforts to recover our daughter. This decision was reached jointly by ourselves and mining company and government safety experts. We are aware and deeply grateful that the rescuers were willing to continue the great personal risk. But fear

of an even greater tragedy influenced our decision."

### WEEK-END

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