

1 increases in size, presses on the diaphragm and the
2 person can't breathe because the diaphragm can't come
3 back down, so that individual becomes short of
4 breath.

5 7,000 ccs or another 1.84 gallons. 11,000
6 ccs in June removed within a month.

7 Within another month, another 9,000 ccs.

8 By August, he was suffering from massive
9 ascites. There was nothing they could do to prevent
10 the accumulation of that fluid. He had another mini
11 laparotomy in August where 13,000 ccs were removed.

12 Mr. Vandergucht's ascites became so bad, so
13 uncontrollable, so untreatable that in September he
14 had something called a LeVeen shunt.

15 He went to Johns Hopkins Hospital and they
16 inserted a shunt, a valve was inserted in his stomach,
17 in his abdominal cavity that ran up to his external
18 jugular vein that would automatically click on so that
19 this acidic fluid could be diuresed back through the
20 blood system and expelled from the body.

21 That was the only way because he was