

1 the pulmonary lab at the University of Maryland,  
2 Professor of the University of Maryland and he is the  
3 head of that department, and he will also testify that  
4 Mr. Grewe suffered from malignant mesothelioma caused  
5 by asbestos exposure.

6 The next case I want to talk to you about  
7 is Mr. Jean Vandergucht.

8 Mr. Vandergucht was born in August of 1912  
9 in Belgium. In 1939 he came to the United States and  
10 became a merchant seaman and stayed a merchant seaman  
11 from about 1939 to the late '40s.

12 He met Mrs. Vandergucht in Denmark, and in  
13 1947 they were married. He was about 37, and she was  
14 about 25.

15 They were married in Denmark, and he came  
16 back to the United States in '47; and she followed him  
17 in 1948. Came here, she learned the language, and she  
18 stayed here in the United States.

19 Mr. and Mrs. Vandergucht had two children,  
20 one grandchild. They live in the Manchester area.

21 They had a farm, and Mr. Vandergucht liked

1 to farm. He had cattle. He had chickens. He had  
2 ducks. He wanted to be a farmer.

3 He was retired at the age of 67, but in 1980  
4 he was diagnosed with mesothelioma.

5 It started off as a firm painful  
6 incarcerated umbilical hernia. It looked almost like  
7 a finger, top of a finger sticking through his belly  
8 button.

9 As soon as he felt the lump, he went right  
10 to his family physician, Dr. Foard up in the  
11 Manchester area who referred him to a surgeon, Dr.  
12 John Steers in October of 1980 who did an operation  
13 and repaired what he thought was a normal procedure,  
14 incarcerated umbilical hernia.

15 You will hear Dr. Steers testify, as soon as  
16 he cut open Mr. Vandergucht and opened that part of  
17 the abdominal cavity which is known as the omentum,  
18 which is a fold in there, he saw nothing but cancer.

19 He thought that it was a GI tract tumor.  
20 The pathologist looked at it and said possibly it was  
21 a mesothelioma. They weren't sure. Therefore, Mr.

1 Vandergucht underwent a liver scan.

2 He underwent a proctosigmoidoscopy. They  
3 were looking for the primary cancer that was in the  
4 umbilical that they didn't know what the origin was.

5 He continued, had a colonoscopy, there were  
6 some polyps, but they were benign.

7 In November of 1980, he went in for an  
8 exploratory laparotomy because Dr. Steers told Mr. and  
9 Mrs. Vandergucht we have to find the origin of the  
10 tumor, so they did a laparotomy, an exploration in the  
11 abdominal cavity.

12 He had something called intra-abdominal  
13 ascites. You see the peritoneal mesothelioma, the  
14 tumor is fluid and the fluid accumulates and builds up  
15 and continues to build up, it is not supposed to be  
16 there, but it is there and it continues to build up  
17 and it has to be drained.

18 They did the operation and removed about  
19 1.84 gallons of fluid from his abdominal cavity. They  
20 did that when they did the laparotomy.

21 When they did the exploration, they opened

1 his abdominal cavity and found widespread peritoneal  
2 spread of the cancer throughout the entire cavity.  
3 Diffuse.

4 It spreads over the surface of the lining of  
5 the abdomen. It spreads and develops in the very  
6 lining that is there to protect and help those organs  
7 to operate properly.

8 They installed some treatment, chemotherapy,  
9 but it was unsuccessful. And he was diagnosed with  
10 mesothelioma. Mr. Vandergucht was given a death  
11 sentence. He was told there was nothing they could  
12 do.

13 They would attempt to do some chemotherapy  
14 for him which he underwent in December through  
15 February by Dr. Heyman. He, again, had bad reactions  
16 and had some vomiting.

17 In February of '81, he thought the  
18 chemotherapy was working, but unfortunately it  
19 relapsed.

20 Mr. Vandergucht, you will hear, was a big  
21 man. He was about 205 pounds before he got sick. He