

HOLLINGSWORTH MISCELLANY

(1) Cousin Clare Hollingsworth, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, sends a cutting from The Colonist, Wed. May 16, 1979, p. 29. Datelined Cardston, Alberta, Canada, it tells of a new, rare and drastic operation for obese persons - a last resort, so-to-speak - to cure them. Gordon Brinkhurst, 46, was one of the patients. The operation is called, in medical terms, a gastroplasty, or stomach change. The stomach is divided into two sections, or chambers, and a small opening connects them. The overeater feels full much sooner than before, and the contents of one chamber must drain over into the other before digesting into the lower tracts. Brinkhurst first asked Dr. John Hollingsworth if such an operation were possible, after failing all other means of losing his weight. Hollingsworth, and Dr. Burns Larson then researched and found that the gastroplasty technique originated in the United States 13 years ago. Traveling to California, the doctors watched the operation

-32-

and interviewed patients. Thus far, in Canada, Hollingsworth and his colleague have performed four such operations.

The drawbacks are, that patients have to live with this divided stomach for the rest of their lives: No reverse operation seems feasible; also, one must chew his food well, before swallowing, so that no particle is caught and plugs up the tiny hole in the division wall! Pills cannot be taken; have to be crushed, or the vitamins or nutrients provided in powder or liquid form. Those with the gastroplasty may expect to lose about sixty percent of their excess weight in 12 to 18 months. (Drastic? Yes, indeed.)