

## OBITUARIES

### S.J. Oberto ✓

Silvio J. "Dutch" Oberto died at 1:30 a.m. Monday, April 22, 1973 at St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction. He was 68.

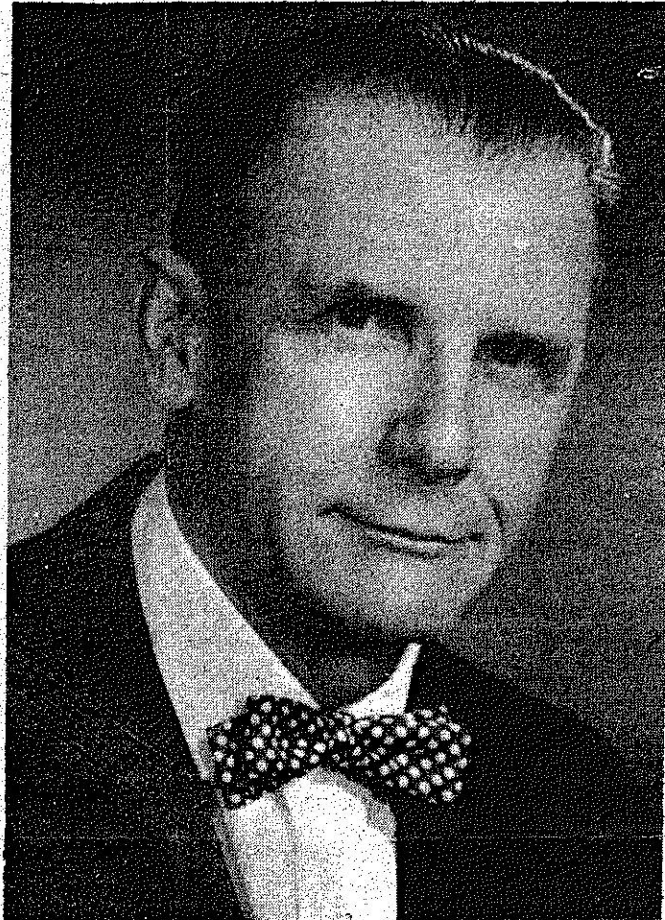
Dutch, also known as Mr. Democrat not only in San Miguel County but in western Colorado, had been taken by ambulance from his home in Telluride Sunday evening after becoming sick. Cause of death was given as a heart attack.

Silvio Joseph Oberto was born Dec. 11, 1905 at Telluride. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Gio Oberto, pioneer ranchers on 800 acres just west of town, 400 up on Mill Creek Mesa, and other lands throughout the San Miguel country. Dutch lived all of his life at Telluride, except while attending high school at Creete, Nebraska and Colorado University. His life work was looking after and managing the family land, mining, and business interests.

In July 1928, he was married at Grand Junction to Tynne Maklow who survives.

Dutch has been active in Democratic politics statewide and has served as San Miguel County's Central Committee chairman for nearly 40 years. Long-time Congressman and friend Wayne Aspinall said, "He could come within 10 votes of telling me what my vote would be in San Miguel County. He was always right on the button." Oberto went into the county chairmanship with Roosevelt, in '32 or '36, Aspinall remembers, and held the distinction of being the longest-term Democratic county chairman in Colorado.

"Dutch never aspired to elective offices," Aspinall said. He did, however, serve about 20 years on the Telluride school board.



Mr. S.J. Oberto

Oberto was the last charter member of Rotary living in Telluride, and he served that organization as District secretary for a number of years. He was a member of Telluride Lodge No. 56, A.F.& A.M. and served it as secretary. He was a member of Grand Junction Scottish Rite Masonic bodies. Just last week he relinquished his office as president of the San Miguel Historical Society with the brief statement he thought it time for "somebody else up here, but I'll work with you just as much as I ever did."

Survivors include two sons, Richard, Arvada, and Donald,

Denver, daughter Bette Hanson, Arvada, eight grandchildren, and brother, Leo of Grand Junction. A son, Robert, died as a child.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 25, at 2 p.m. at Christ Church with Rev. Ernest Smith officiating. Graveside services were conducted at Lone Tree Cemetery by Telluride Lodge No. 56, A.F.& A.M. Pallbearers were fellow Rotarians John Payne, Larry Wilkinson, Les Smith, Harlan Peltier, Dick Swerdfeger and Tom Hedlund.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Church.