

## Gio O'Berto Succumbs Suddenly on Street In Nucla Tuesday

Gio O'Berto, one of western Colorado's more colorful characters and a man with a host of friends, died suddenly Tuesday afternoon at Nucla. He was stricken suddenly while standing in front of a filling station and succumbed before medical assistance could be summoned.

The Italian born immigrant came to the United States about 50 years ago with exactly \$2.65 cash. In the next five decades he amassed a sizeable fortune which at the time of his death includes extensive real estate, ranching and mining holdings as well as a loan business. He was well known throught the western slope but made his home in Telluride, where he got his start as a successful businessman.

Gio O'Berto was friend and confidant of scores of people. He never let down a friend, and he never forgot a breach of promise. It was said of him that his mind was his book-keeping system. Those with whom he had close contacts said their written records were never more accurate than O'Berto's memory.

Mr. O'Berto was the owner of the famous Pastime club in the boom days of Telluride. In addition to its operation he attended to a gold brokerage business, acting as banker's agent for scores of miners. In later years he acquired mining property and at one time was co-owner of the famous Tom-boy mine, but disposed of his interests in the property several years ago to his partner in the venture, John Moore.

Among his closer friends in Montrose was F. J. Hartman, who recounted frequently the philosophy of Gio (Joe) O'Berto. This was told in O'Berto's remark, "I came to the United States with \$2.65. If I have no more than that when I die, I will be happy because Uncle Sam and America have been good to me."

Montrose Press - 2-11-42