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A Scanning Device For Quick Checks Of Credit Invented

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MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (UPI)—The first holographic memory unit that can check a credit card holder's rating within three seconds is now being produced by a firm here.

"Airline ticketing operations, gasoline companies and any retail operations that have their own credit or other credit cards coming across the counter can use the device," said James J. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson, president of Optical Data Systems, Inc., which holds the first patent granted such a device, said several international hotel chains are now using the firm's holoscan 300 memory unit.

Several Las Vegas gambling casinos have also installed the credit card checking device. The casinos can tell if a gambler's credit is good—and can even make special notations that tell how large a marker the gambler is good for.

Fast and Accurate

The laser beam at the heart of the device makes fast, accurate scanning possible. The system is miniaturized and permit 350,000 to 700,000 credit ratings to be put on a 30-foot trip of 35 millimeter film.

If a customer were to ask for lodging at one of the hotels using the system, the clerk would punch the credit card's number into a keyboard.

"Within three seconds the memory unit would search a file to see if your card had been designated a bad credit risk," Mr. Wilson said.

"If your card number is not in the memory, the clerk gets a 'thumbs up' and you proceed with the checking in ceremonies."

However, should your card be included in the file, the clerk would get a negative response and refuse to accept the card.