

# Fiscal Department Cashier In 33rd Year of Service

A&M was preparing for its first academic year with more than 2,000 students, and Clifford C. Edge was beginning his first job when he joined the fiscal department as a payroll clerk on July 15, 1920.

The two-man cashier section, Edge and Assistant Cashier Donald P. Cole, performs several functions.

They handled more than 200,000 checks with a total value of \$15,000,000 during the last fiscal

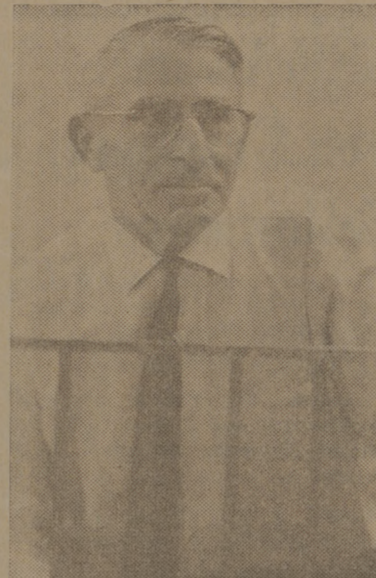
year, Edge said.

"WE ALSO are sort of an agent for other departments," he pointed out. More than \$5,000,000 was taken in for various accounts receivable during the fiscal year, and fee receipts totaled approximately \$4,400,000.

The fiscal department employed 10 persons when Edge joined the staff in 1920. Now there are about 30 persons in the department.

In earlier years the department allowed students to keep money on deposit. There was no bank in College Station and the trip to Bryan was not as easy as nowadays.

DISTRIBUTING THE payroll to departmental representatives is a major chore each month, while the cycle of payments from students is scheduled to keep the cashiers busy most of the time.



CLIFFORD C. EDGE

# Plasma Physics May Offer Solution To Space Problem

When a spacecraft re-enters the earth's atmosphere it is surrounded by an ionized gas, or plasma, generated by speed and friction.

Simulating this condition to learn about electron temperatures is the aim of A&M scientists in their research about plasma physics.

Heading the project is Dr. Melvin Eisner, who is conducting the preliminary research for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. The National Aeronautics & Space Administration recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to the TEES to en-

courage space-related research.

PLASMA PHYSICS, often called the fourth state of matter, holds many keys to problems facing scientists in both astronautics and thermo-nuclear research.

If physicists can learn more about the nature of the plasma surrounding a spacecraft during re-entry, they may also find a way to continue communication with astronauts who lose radio contact when the ionized gas surrounds their spacecraft. The radio "black-out" at such critical times is a major problem.

The physicists are using to probe the plasma to determine its temperature and density.

Using a Laser, an "Light Amplification Emission Radiation" group hopes to obtain they want without the properties of the plasma.

The NASA grant supports research assists six students doing advanced plasma physics, four of the doctoral level.

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