

City Hall Notes

By James Toms



Don Ash started his 24th year on the job at Akron City Hall this week — but there was no ceremony, no party. He is probably one of the best-known persons in the building, yet he is never quoted in the newspaper and he's never been on the Municipal payroll.

Ash, 44, can be found stationed each day behind the small concession counter in the basement of the Hall. Blind since he was 10, he prides himself on being able to "recognize" most of his customers.

"**SOME** people in business today complain of stealing. But in all my years at City Hall, I have never had anyone try to cheat me," Ash says.

Ash, a guest at Mayor Ballard's press conference this week, said he keeps busy in his spare time tuning pianos. But while on duty at the concession stand, what he hears most often are demands for hot coffee and fresh doughnuts.

A self-proclaimed "optimist," Ash estimates that in his 23 years at the Hall he has sold three million cups of coffee and one million doughnuts. And his sincerest wish is to double those figures before turning the business over to someone else.



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