



Leon Cohan
urges closer ties

Cohan heads Jewish Council

The new president of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit has urged the Jewish community to establish closer ties with the Arab, Black and Hispanic communities in the Detroit area.

Leon Cohan of Bloomfield Township addressed the council recently after his election.

"We are not a community apart," he said. "We will embark on a renewed program of reaching out to the major elements of this community and to our non-Jewish sister organizations."

Cohan discussed each of the three communities separately.

"First, the Black community," he said. "We, who have shared so many burdens of the past and who have fought together on behalf of so many causes for social justice, cannot permit occasional differences . . . to impede the long sweep of our historical relationship and alliance."

THE HISPANIC community, said Cohan, is the "fastest growing ethnic group in America and represents a largely untapped reservoir of opportunity and leadership. We will seek to forge closer ties."

Cohan noted that Detroit's Arab community is the largest in the United States. "It is diverse in nationality and religion," he said, "but its energetic people share the American dream."

"While agreement on the issues of the Middle East may not be possible, this should not and will not prevent us from working together on a host of other problems and opportunities which we share."

THE JEWISH Community Council is an umbrella organization for some 300 Jewish organizations in the metropolitan area. Its membership includes synagogues, service and philanthropic groups, fraternal, social, political, community relations and other organizations.

Cohan, senior vice president and general counsel of Detroit Edison Co., serves as chairman of the State Board of Ethics and as a member of the State Council for the Arts.

A musical first

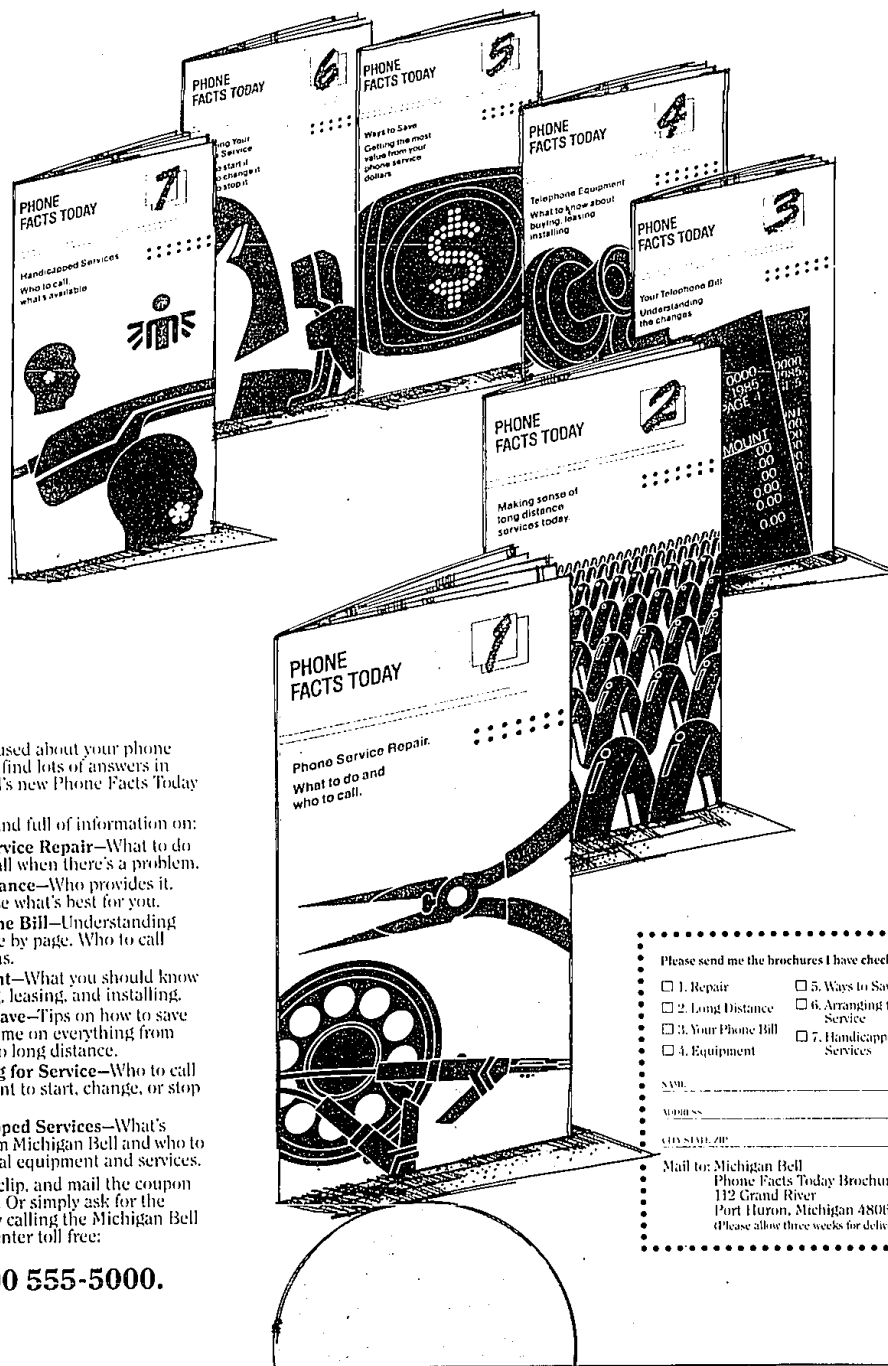
The first time blacks and whites made music together for a national audience was 1936, according to Lionel Hampton. He and Teddy Wilson appeared on the Camel Caravan Radio Hour, sponsored by Camel cigarettes, with Benny Goodman and Gene Krupa. That was 11 years before Jackie Robinson became the first black major league baseball player.

Heads or tails

Orville Wright, rather than his elder brother Wilbur, became the first man to fly a powered craft because of the loss of a coin, says national Geographic.

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