

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Oct 17-21, 2011  
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Barry Strassler, Editor of DeafDigest at [www.DeafDigest.net](http://www.DeafDigest.net) shares this week's follow up DCQW. Last week the focus was related to deaf workers supporting the World War I and II war efforts by working in factories on the home front. This week Barry shares an additional piece of interesting cultural information related to Deaf workers during World War I.

What organized recreational activity did young deaf men working for Goodyear Tire and Rubber company during World War I engage in during non-work hours.

- a. They formed bowling leagues that were the beginning of organized sports competition between clubs for the deaf.
- b. They formed basketball teams and played against other deaf clubs. This was actually the beginning of what eventually became the World Games for the Deaf and now is referred to as Deaflympics.
- c. They formed a semi-pro football team and played against hearing teams in a semi-pro league.
- d. They met each week at a different persons house or apartment to play poker. This actually was the beginning of the National Deaf Poker Tour and Championship competition.

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: “c” – There were so many young, restless deaf men working at the Goodyear plant during the late 1910's that they decided to band together to form a semi-pro football team called the Akron Goodyear Silents. This semi-pro team lasted from 1915 - 1927 and won several local semi-pro championships, playing against hearing semi-pro teams anywhere on the East Coast. As the word of the team reached the Deaf Community, many deaf men moved to Akron to get jobs at the plant and just to play football. The team disbanded when fewer and

fewer deaf men were employed at the plant after the war effort ended. The Akron Goodyear Silents were never sanctioned or financially supported by the Goodyear company.

Thanks to Barry Strassler, editor of DeafDigest, for contributing to this week's Deaf Culture of the Week Question.

Note: All previous issues of DCQW are archived at the Washington School for the Deaf website: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>