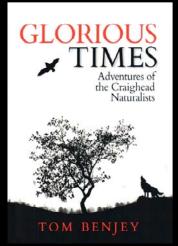
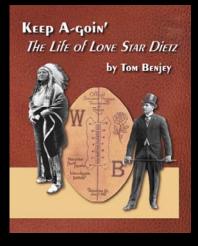
## Tom Benjey Author



On the surface it might appear that nothing Tom Benjey had done previous to writing *a* book had prepared him for such a task. On the other hand everything he had done before may have readied him for such a major project. The second of ten children, he grew up in a home of modest means in a small town in downstate Illinois where he operated the family bicycle shop while in high school. He attended Northwestern University on scholarship for one year before taking an allexpenses-paid trip to the Far East courtesy of the taxpayers. After maintaining the weapons control system on F-102 aircraft in the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand, he took advantage of the GI Bill and enrolled at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE) where he earned his B.S. in Mathematics.

While working in the field, he completed an M.S. in Computer Science at Shippensburg State College. Timing the opportunity to live abroad to coincide perfectly with the fall of the Berlin Wall, he taught computer studies for the University of Maryland European Division for two years. After returning to the U.S., he completed a Ph.D. degree in Mathematics Education at Indiana University.

Researching the life of Lone Star Dietz and writing his biography spanned a five-year period. The research unearthed a treasure trove of long forgotten facts about American football's early days and the legendary Carlisle Indian School football program which found their way into articles in *Washington State Magazine, Journal of College Football Historical Society, Coffin Corner, Cougfan.com* and *The Sentinel*. In September, 2006 Dr. Benjey wrote and co-produced *The Birth of Modern Football*, a 10-minute documentary commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first modern football game and the unleashing on the single-wing offense by the Carlisle Indians.



After that, he researched the lives of over 50 Carlisle Indian School football stars for Doctors, Lawyers, Indian Chiefs. While waiting for the book to go to press, he began blogging twice weekly (generally) on (sometimes loosely) related topics that don't find a place in his books.

In 2009, Dr. David S. Masland encouraged Tom to write about the Craigheads. While researching and writing the book, Dr. Benjey was treated for prostate cancer and used the experience to write a guide, Prostate Cancer and the Veteran, to assist others. *Glorious Times: Adventures of the Craighead Naturalists* has been released and Tom is giving talks on it while working with the committee to restore Craighead House.

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