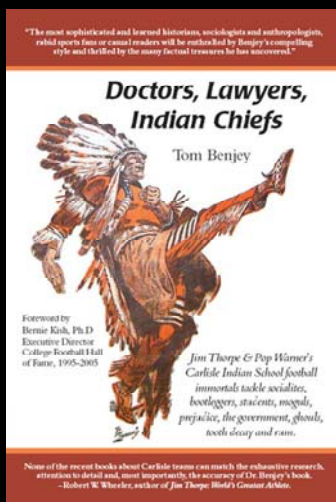


# TOM BENJEY

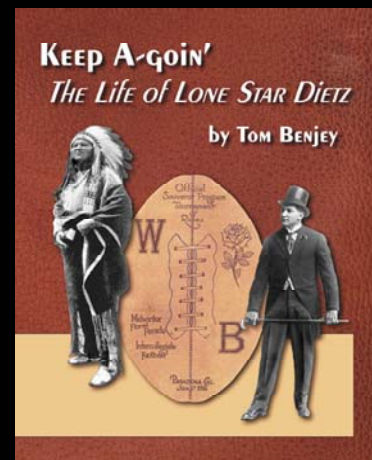
AUTHOR



On the surface it might appear that nothing Tom Benjey had done previous to writing *Doctors, Lawyers, Indian Chiefs* and *Keep A-goin': the life of Lone Star Dietz* prepared him for such a task. On the other hand everything he had done before may have readied him for the projects. 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 just one year before taking an all-expenses-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 where he earned his B.S. in Mathematics.

He later 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 Carlisle Indian School (sometimes loosely) related topics that don't find a place in his books. Some important players were left out of *Doctors, Lawyers, Indian Chiefs* due to space limitations or the lack of material about them at the time. Separate volumes have been produced for Oklahoma and Wisconsin, respectively, to include players closely associated with those states.

Dr. Benjey was treated for prostate cancer in 2011 and used the experience to write a guide, *Prostate Cancer and the Veteran*, to assist others. He is now working on *The Craighead Naturalists*.

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