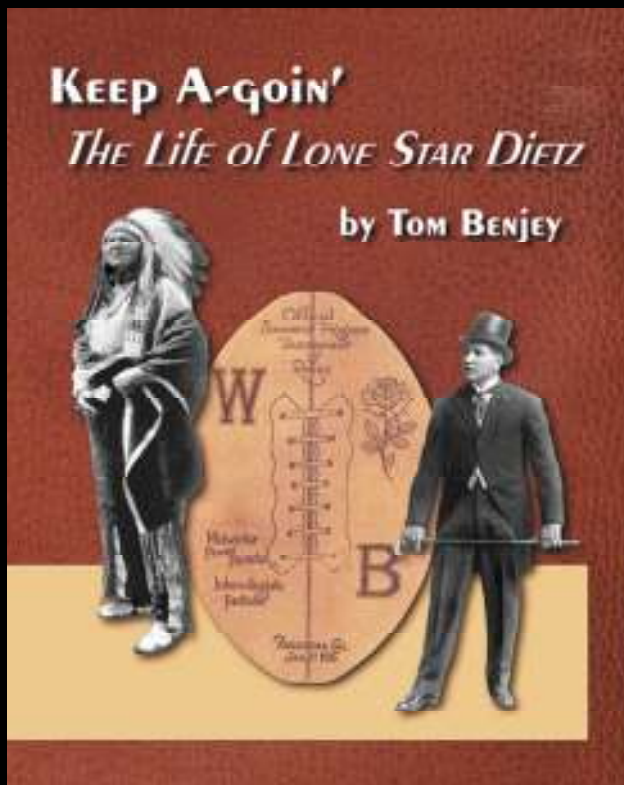


TOM BENJEY

AUTHOR



On the surface it might appear that nothing Tom Benjey had done previous to writing *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 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 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, Viet Nam and Thailand, he took advantage of the GI Bill and enrolled at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Eight years after earning his B.S. in Mathematics he completed an M.S. in Computer Science at Shippensburg State College. Utilizing his decade of software development experience he operated a systems house for most of the 1980s. 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 that 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*, *The Sentinel* and *Cumberland County History Journal* (in press). In September, 2006 Mr. Benjey wrote and co-produced *The Birth of Modern Football*, a 10-minute documentary commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first modern football game and the unleashing on the single-wing offense by the Carlisle Indians.

Tom and his wife and research assistant, Ann, share a Pennsylvania German limestone farmhouse with their cat, Ryan. The unspoiled feline allows them to live in his house as a reward for their efforts in restoring it for him. The accidental activists honed their research skills in a 3 ½ year fight to protect their community from the proposed Monster Warehouses project that ended with an unconditional victory.

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