

TONTO AIDS INDIANS IN WORKSHOP (cont'd):

- if his carved, granite-like face hadn't had an engaging way of breaking into an instantly sympathetic smile. . .

- if his father hadn't been a major in the Canadian army during World War I. . .

- if he hadn't devoted his youth to boxing and baseball and football and horseback riding and, most of all, lacrosse.

But he did, and it all worked out, and he became the Lone Ranger's famous partner for eight happy television years.

And he looks back on it all with a slow smile and tells you that "kemo sabe" is Iroquois for "faithful friend" which is what he is becoming to other Indian theatrical hopefuls who need a few friends to help them.

Silverheels founded, and is starting to promote, an Indian Actors' Workshop located in the basement of Echo Park Methodist Church.

So far, it boasts three non-Indian instructors who are volunteering their time to teach Indian youths how to act, dance and write.

But, as Silverheels told members of the Tustin Area Women's Club recently, the main objective is to "equip Indian children so they can contribute to society with the hope that a chance for success will add to their dignity."

Silverheels tells, in a voice that's barely audible, how he took his chance - when he was 20 and living on the Six-Nations Iroquois Indian Reservation in south-central Ontario. He was proud of his family, his father's wartime record, his seven brothers and two sisters.

And he was confident - Silverheels was active in sports, "the only area where I really wanted to excel."

He was runner-up for the National Golden Gloves boxing championship and a member of a Canadian lacrosse team when the group came to the United States to promote lacrosse here. Silverheels stayed on as an extra on Hollywood movie sets.

Then came any odd job he could find "just so I wouldn't have to be an extra anymore," hours spent in acting schools, marriage to a young Italian girl and finally a role with Tyrone Power as the captive prince in "Captain from Castile."

He played Geronimo opposite Jeff Chandler in "Broken Arrow" and then came the offer to do the television series playing in a drama he used to listen to as a boy on radio.

And now, he heads the list of Indians who have pulled themselves up by their bootstraps in a white man's world.

It's a new role and he plays it low-key.

It's difficult to get him to talk "protest", though he will say the Indian situation has no parallel in Negro communities, that "we lost our land after treaties were signed and all we want is the justice that we have always had coming to us."

But Silverheels would rather "do" than "talk".

"I'd rather direct a movie from the Indian's point of view. It should be made by an Indian rather than by someone from Israel or England who has spent two weeks on a reservation and thinks he knows what Indians are like."

And he would rather promote his school and "provide an opportunity for Indians to get an education of the kind that isn't normally available."

So the 60 or so youngsters who attend the Indian Actors' Workshop look up to him because he "made it" in a world where many Indians don't, and he's willing to help others do the same.

* * * * *

Recipe: Here is a recipe worth repeating.

Chili Con Carne

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 - 20 oz. can kidney beans | 1/2 cup chopped onions |
| 2 - tbsp. bacon fat | 1 lb. ground beef or hamburger |
| 1 - 28 oz. can tomatoes | 1 1/2 tsp. chili powder (or suit your taste) |
| 1 tsp. salt | Pinch of cayenne. |

Saute onions until tender. Add meat and brown. Mix all ingredients and cook over low heat for one hour or longer.

(cont'd)