

# HARLEM ITALIANS PARADE FOR SAINT

## Casual March Fails to Mar Air of Festivity

By GAY TALESE

It was not the sort of parade in which the marchers kept step, or the band stayed in tune, or at which a police chief estimated the crowd—and possibly exaggerated a bit.

Instead, it was a neighborhood parade in Italian Harlem—a small, casual procession honoring Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

It began at 4 P.M. yesterday on First Avenue and 115th Street, and moved past the tenements and under the ticker-tape to 120th Street behind one police car, one float, and a clanging, oom-pah-pah band not unlike those in a Federico Fellini film.

Walking behind the band were a few hundred neighborhood people who just felt like walking. Twenty little girls, dressed in white and representing angels, sat on the float around the statue of the saint.

"Too many angels!" one of the men assigned to pull the float complained.

"No!" shouted the angels.

He just shrugged and, with two other men, began the westward march toward Lexington Avenue and 115th Street.

Ten minutes later, the four block stretch was crackling with firecrackers, with the gong of church bells and, from tenement roofs, young boys hurled down thousands of torn, tiny pieces from telephone books, covering the street with millions of names that two sanitation workers, brooms in hand, patiently waited to sweep up.

"What a mess," someone remarked sympathetically to one of the workers, Louis Cavaleri.

"That's all right," Mr. Cavaleri said, unconcerned. He now lives in Queens, but he was born and reared in this neighborhood, and still revels in its parade.

Behind him, and all along the sidewalks, the venders kept busy. There was an elderly Italian fortuneteller with a parrot, a wagon simmering with hot zeppole, and adjoining wagons offering rosary beads, medals, dolls, monogrammed hats, toy Japanese swords, guitars, and drums; a clam bar, a mobile cafe espresso shop, and a dozen other perambulators. They were scrambled and seemingly disorganized, but nonetheless festive and engaging in their disorder—like the parade itself.