

BEST IN THE PARADE

Residents of Montclair, N.J., sought out every bit of shade from which they could comfortably view the town's 47th annual Fourth of July Parade. The temperature was reaching 104 degrees, and the humidity made it seem like 115. A record-breaking heat wave had engulfed the East Coast over this holiday weekend.

But it did not dampen the spirit of the spectators. Ice cream and cold drinks were sold on almost every corner, while the children enjoyed the popping of small firecrackers safely thrown on the street.

Finally, the marching units appeared: military groups, veterans organizations, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, little leagues, civic organizations and fire, police and emergency workers. Appearing almost at the end of the lineup, the SGI-USA New Jersey Music Corps performed for the first time in the parade in brilliant white and blue uniforms with sharp gold trim, the Drill Team's banners crisply flapping as the girls performed their routine.

As the Music Corps approached the reviewing stand, the judges briefly mistook it for a professional group!

Mr. Herschel White, Montclair resident and parade chairman since 1975, exclaimed later that the SGI-USA's youth band had made a top performance. "You guys are so ethnically diverse!" he said. "The SGI is very unique and well received in Montclair. I hope that you will come back next year."

He further said that the judges were delighted to award the group with a trophy for Best Youth Marching Band of the Parade. The Music Corps had accomplished a tremendous victory!

—MARY MACK