

Photographing Hood easier said than done

by SCOTT MAGUIRE

Shooting Mount Hood is easier said than done.

Organizers of the Mount Hood Festival of Jazz know all about the problems one can encounter while trying to capture the snowy peak on film. In fact, they are getting a fresh lesson in the fickleness of photography this year.

"We plan to take a shot this week," said Bob Dematteis, festival manager. "And we will take another in two weeks, and another one is set up for two weeks after that."

Dematteis refused to say exactly when and where the photo session will take place. Fears of flopped photo sessions plague him and members of the jazz festival board.

Shooting the 1983 poster of a grand piano floating in Trillium Lake was the last time the photo session was open to the public. That session had its problems with weather. Once the shot finally occurred, the barge bearing the piano wouldn't entirely submerge. Photographer Michael Beard of Errolgraphics had to air brush parts of the poster.

Disappointment struck this spring on a possible poster shot. The poster committee was meeting at Mt. Hood Community College on a clear evening. The moon was out early and shone beautifully above Mount Hood, Dematteis recalls. They agreed to try capturing the vista from the Happy Valley golf course near Damascus the next night.

"We of there and the moon didn't come out until an hour later and there wasn't enough light left to shoot," Dematteis said.

Dematteis said the festival board wants to get two or three shots "in the bank." Anxiety runs high until the photo is taken, and having one or two to fall back on would help solve that. Poster photos in 1982 and 1983 weren't shot until June. The 1984 photo was taken in April when apple blossoms were in bloom.

"If we can get one or two in the bag, then we could try some even riskier shots," Dematteis said. He is sure the poster will be printed and ready for the festival.

In other jazz festival news, Dematteis has signed two of the last three acts. Kenny G. and Tom Grant will play at the Aug. 3 and 4 event in Gresham.

Grant will play on Saturday. He is a local jazz artist, headquartered at Cousin's Cafe and Bar in downtown Portland. Grant played at the jazz festival in 1982 and 1983. The Mount Hood Festival of Jazz has a policy not to schedule groups three years in a row — so Grant wasn't on the program in 1984.

Grant, a keyboardist, has mainstream roots to his own brand of contemporary jazz.

Grant has added a fourth album to his releases: "Just the Right Moment." His other albums are "Mystified," "You Hardly Know Me," and "Tom Grant." He and his band have performed nationally.

Kenny G. — his last name is Gorelick — recently played warmup for George Benson concerts in Portland and Seattle. He is a native of Seattle and first gained notice as a saxophonist with The Jeff Lorber Fusion.

Arista Records signed him to a contract which has led to three records: "Kenny G.," "G-Force," and his latest, "Gravity." His first two albums made the Top 10 on Billboard magazine's jazz hits chart.

Kenny G. provides a fusion of rhythm and blues and funk and his latest albums lean toward electronic jazz.

The last group on the festival schedule will be a group of local all-stars gathered specifically for the

1985 festival, Dematteis said. He has started contacting musicians and expects to have the list prepared in about a week.

With the latest releases, Saturday's lineup looks like this: Festival vocal ensemble, Jimmy Smith Quartet, Festival All-Stars, Richie Cole and Alto Madness, Tom Grant Band, Red Holloway Quartet, Art Farmer Quartet and Spyro Gyra.

Sunday's lineup includes festival big band, Ramsey Lewis, Milt Jackson/Ray Brown Quartet, Kenny G., Elji Kitamura Quartet, County Basie Band, Sarah Vaughan, with a finale combining the Basie Band and Vaughan.

Ticket sales for the 1985 festival are about 20 percent ahead of last year, Dematteis said. Section A, reserved seating for 870 people, had already sold out in May, about six weeks earlier than last year.

"This year it went fast," he said. Requests for section A were two or three times the number of seats, he said.

"The tickets are selling faster and we have taken in more money to date than last year," Dematteis said. "Sales are falling right to projections. Section A is sold out. We are having heavy B sales and are already selling some general admission."

Section B, also reserved seating, holds 1,350 people.

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When one looks for an explanation of these alarming figures, the use of powerful psychiatric drugs in the schools looms as a major factor.

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A report published that year in FREEDOM, the Church's independent news journal, disclosed that some 300,000 American schoolchildren between six and twelve years of age were being given heavy doses of amphetamines to "modify" their "overactive" classroom behavior. Up to 30 per cent of the schoolchildren in some areas were maintained on the mind-crushing drugs.

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