Blasting of Haystack Rock brings men chilly interval

Cannon Beach residents were startled Tuesday morning shortly before 9 a.m., by what sounded like a sonic boom. Actually it was Ralph Reed, teacher of pyrotechnics at the Oregon State University, blasting Haystack Rock. He and his helper, C. B. Stuuffacher, were engaged by the bureau of sport fisheries and wildlife to knock the ledge off Haystack. Since last April, twenty-eight similar islands from Tillamook Head down to Brookings were transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the bureau of sport fisheries and wildlife. This is a part of the national wildlife refuge system, which has refuges located in 49 of the 50 states.

Richard S. Rodgers, refuge manager, who came down for the blasting, stated that the ledge was being removed primarily to keep prospective climbers from getting hurt by discouraging them from trying to get up the rock. Also important to the bureau is to keep away climbers who disturb the thousands of birds that choose this as their nesting place.

Rodgers arrived for the blasting at 7 a.m. from his home in Corvallis. The dynamite experts, however, were delayed by the fog and did not arrive from their Eugene headquarters until 8:15 a.m. The first blast that rocked the town was heard at 8:45 a.m. John West, city marshal, was on the beach most of the day, during morning hours by choice but in the afternoon by necessity. It seems the blast is so engaged in their rock-shattering work that no one noticed that the tide was coming in. Suddenly it dawned on Rodgers. He tried to wade out to warn the men, because he could not hear above the surf. However, it was chest-high in places and he had to turn back. This was shortly after noon.

After some deliberation it was decided there was nothing to do but to let the two men, Reed and Stuuffacher, sit it out. Marshal West considered a rescue by boat but it was deemed wise because of the heavy wind and rough surf. He sat in his patrol car most of the time with binoculars, watching the men in distress waving their arms and motioning "come and get us." A helicopter rescue was virtually impossible because the men were too low and in a rocky area of the monolith. Some thought at