

Editorial Excerpt from The Highlander

Highlands is synonymous with its waterfalls. If you don't believe us, just ask the Visitor's Center. Daily, people come here in search of the various falls, and the center's staff has said that "Where are the waterfalls?" is one of the top questions.

For the past three and a half years, we gave directions to Bridal Veil with a qualifier. "You can see Bridal Veil from the road, but you used to be able to drive under it." When the rock tumbled on Thanksgiving day in 2003, it blocked a passage used by generations of Highlands and visitors.

Highlands developer Bill Nellis spent the time since then looking at the rock and wishing, along with many other Highlands area residents, for a return to the days when the waterfall was an attraction and not something to be pitied.

On Thursday morning, Nellis and his crew blasted the rock and removed it, once again opening Highlands well-known "drive-through" waterfall. In many ways, Bridal Veil stands as a link for us to a simpler time, when nature was our entertainment. Adults and children alike get a thrill out of driving or standing underneath the falls.

We love living in a place where simple pleasures still mean something. We also love living in a place where neighbors do something nice for each other. Not only did Nellis' removal of the rock give Highlands back its icon, it also helped the forest service. The agency had previously considered removing the rock, but at a cost of \$20,000, the price tag was just too steep.

We send our thanks to Bill Nellis for his efforts to restore the falls and extend an invitation to our guests: If you've never driven under the falls, it's an experience not to be missed.