Cliff House Suspension Bridge

In the 1880s a rope and wood bridge linked Flag Rock to a rocky promontory beneath the Cliff House. It hung 25 to 30 feet above the sand or shallow water, depending on the tide, and provided a close and dramatic view of the pounding waves.

In April 1884 several boys rocked the bridge so rigorously that it flipped upside down, throwing 35 to 40 people to the sand and shallow water below, seriously injuring several of them.

The bridge was not repaired but in its place a raised rock and concrete pathway was built. For many years visitors as well as local fisherman used the walkway to access Flag Rock.

This walkway also proved dangerous as sneaker waves washed pedestrians off and visitors were often stranded by the high tide. In the 1980s the hazardous causeway was finally demolished by the National Park Service.

Top: Visitors walking across suspension bridge to the American flag flying on Flag Rock; Bottom: Fishermen on Flag Rock surrounded by crashing waves, 1970s.