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V269
Special Island Update
for
(My island mentor, Mike)

St. SomeTimes

From the Life and Times of Greg Lemoine, International Educator since 2001

The island has changed over the years since you were here Mike. I arrived in 2016, so that is where I will start. You, and many others, were on the island much sooner than I was, but it's hard for me to imagine changes leading up to when I "ran ashore".

StSomeTimes is a monthly newsletter featured on www.stsomewhere.online

Changes

A word about Security

As many island residents (both past and present) know, we don't really talk about the island with anyone on other mainlands.

There is security to think about. There are security rules for our own safety and the overall island safety. That being said, this volume of the newsletter will keep out specifics. Places are referred to in general. Pictures are taken at random spots without any kind of map or relational method. The only way to find these spots is to actually know them for what they were, once upon a time.



The idea to present this StSomeTimes special edition came to me as the new Canyon park was finished. What is now a park used to be my apartments.

The physical changes of the island are the focus here, not the lifestyle changes or population changes. "This is the way."

Since the island is surrounded by desert, it is refreshing to see the physical changes include a lot of green spaces. More and more plants are

added. Parks have sprung up in the new housing areas. Even the "almost useless" park that has replaced the Windmill apartments is refreshing to drive by. I'd rather see green than pillbox houses or apartments. Changes happen.

Yet, not everything has changed. Like you see to the right, some things haven't changed. Several pages of this issue will share a few pictures of things that have not changed.

This volume won't cover all the changes. Heck, it won't even touch the surface. Yet, it should spark a little conversation and bring you (Mike) and a few other former island residents some joy. I don't expect you to come back. I probably won't after I leave. So here are a few changes and updates.



I'm Still Here... 6+ years

Here, meaning my apartment after the "windmills". I moved in over six years ago and now it's time to move. About 200 ft across the grass is the same model apartment with 220v electricity. I've watched them "working" on it for three years now. Whatever.



I think your trailer is still here.

Mike, there is a small support group that sprung up years ago. It is called "I Have Some of Mike's Stuff". We meet once a month and discuss the dwindling value of certain items you left behind. Is this your trailer? Hah. I still have a pair of cat juggling gloves you couldn't fit into your suitcases.



No longer Mike's. Someone else is there now. I bet it wasn't even vacuumed. Maybe repainted.



The island Gas Station is still there. My new moto is 150. It's called "The Scooter". Gas guzzler, I have to visit the station once a week for 5Liters.



Never knew there was a Baseball club building. Wonder if it's been used since 1950.



Plenty of parking on the island. This is an older one but look at that cool little yellow trailer.



Nope. Still the same. The golf course has grown a bit, but it isn't noticeable. More people speed on this road now.



This intersection has not changed at all. Mike, you probably remember this. Turn the other direction for the Mini-Mart.



In With the New Parks and Homes



Such a new park across from the gas station. Who goes there? I have seen two people walking there in 6 months. Goodbye



Sometimes these apartment complexes give me a feeling of the apocalypse. Where are the zombies. There still aren't any people? Empty?



I don't take the roads for granted. The island roads are still reminiscent of the USA. Mostly well maintained. Traffic laws. Metered lights. Love it.



Above Used to Be the Windmills

(Above) When I first moved to the island, Mike picked me up the first morning from my "Windmill" one year home. It took the company 3 years to replace the container homes with a simple park. Really? I mean 3 years? (Below) I don't know what these are. Some kind of PaddleBall courts?



Some of the Island Really is Weirdly New



A new not-so-mini mart? Yeah, down by DHS is a new center. Groceries, Gym, pool, mosque, weird local fast food, and plenty of parking.



This is a small park in some area of new apartment and home area. No idea what the name is, but it has some special fun plants!



Wow. Look at all those three story apartment buildings. This is the land of cement walks.

3 Bedroom Homes and 3 Story Apts

Who is living in these? More and more local families are moving into these homes. I'm not sure about the weird high apartments. Lights in the hallways of the big apt buildings turn off and on by movement sensors. It's all a bit sterile in those buildings.



The Old. My apartment is still 110v but I have to move soon.



The New. These three story apartments are slowly filling up.





I Saw an Oryx. A "real" Oryx... at the Sanctuary

Yes, there is now a sanctuary. I've never seen one person go in there. I HAVE seen three Oryx, so they aren't just some hoax. Take a look at the photo to the right. My only question is about "reused stones". Are those really a thing? (Yes, I anonymized the name of the sanctuary) Overall, this is fantastic. I love the idea of a sanctuary.



The Island Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is to protect and preserve the natural environment, and conserve the integrity of the ecosystem resilience, and biodiversity of both the flora and fauna by showcasing verity of native trees in the area to bring the area back to its origin.

- Sanctuary Area: 170,000 m²
- Native Trees: 28,000
- Native Ground Cover: 2500
- Deers: 20
- Recycled Wood: 800 m³
- Re-used Stones: 1,000 m³
- Re-used Steel: 10,000 m³

TSE Water Flow by Gravity

Legend

- Parking
- Entrance
- Knowledge Area
- Observation Area
- Management Entrance

This is a real sign that has sprung up around the island recently. I'm so happy someone really cares enough and created such a fun sign. Desert fox are everywhere on the island. They hunt the feral cats that are abandoned around camp. Yes, I'm a cat lover, but I'm also a desert fox lover. Feral cats are nasty, fight at all hours of the night, and need to have a predator.

