

Disney World Still Entertaining (Uninvited) Guests

By David Schuchardt

The magic of Disney World still calls out for guests to come and visit even when it is closed. On April 30 a man by the name of Richard McGuire from Mobile, Alabama, was arrested after being caught camping on Disney World's Bay Lake *Discovery Island*. In this time of the coronavirus **Disney World** is still entertaining guests, even if they are the kind that are charged with trespassing.

The island has gone through several names and is not the current discovery Island on the park maps but is an older attraction that was close two decades ago. The island, originally named Treasure Island, served as an 11-acre zoo housing tropical species. It was called a place where people honestly concerned about preserving the wild places of the world would love to visit. It was closed in 1999 with the majority of its exhibits being transferred to the newly opened *Animal Kingdom*. The name at some point in time was also transferred to the central courtyard of the animal kingdom which was originally named "*Safari Village*". Since the island's closing Disney has been perplexed how to use the island with several attempts having been made.

McGuire saw the recent closure as an opportunity to camp in as put it "a tropical paradise". He made entry to the park some time on April 25 and said he planned to stay a week. After authorities became aware of his presence executed an extensive search and finally found after discovering his campsite in one of the abandoned structures. McGuire claimed that he didn't know he was trespassing despite numerous signs posted all over. He has been charged with a misdemeanor for trespassing by the County Court and has been banned by Disney from all of their properties, for life.

It is clear that The Magic of Disney World still calls out for people to explore the wonder of the park even when it's closed during these trying times. Even more so when it's an abandoned attraction on the outskirts of the main park. McGuire is not the first recorded trespasser on *Discovery Island*, not even the first one to have been caught. It's hard to believe Disney can't find an option would allow them to reopen the island as an attraction. At least they could put a better security system on to alert them of this sort of trespassing occurs. Either way it's nice to know the people are still entertained by the magic of Discovery Island, even if they have to pay a life time price for it.