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Dear Reader:

Hey guys, it's me, Miller Futero! You know the one who was a guard on Alcatraz Island for eleven years. I haven't talked to you in forever! I have been thinking a lot about my past few years, ever since I discovered an old box in the attic behind my Christmas decorations. In the box I found an old TIME magazine article, a list of frequently asked questions, old prisoners diaries, photos with notes, and a map of the island.

I had no idea that I kept items from my Alcatraz past but was happy when I found them. In the TIME magazine article it talks about what I thought of the island and how the family and prison life compared. The page that lists frequently asks questions and answers was for my brother who wanted to know more about the island. It shares some basic facts that not everyone knows about Alcatraz. I recently got invited back to Alcatraz Island because the prison had closed. The other guards and I were looking through the cells and I came across three journal entries from ex-prisoners. They talked about how the prisoners were feeling that day and their future plans. Not going to lie but I was shocked by Clarence Anglin's journal about an escape! The old photos I found really took me down memory lane. Remembering things like the prison cells, the views from the island shores and where us guards stayed. The last thing in the box was a map of Alcatraz which I made so my kids could see where the buildings and structures around the island were located.

Finding this box of things has made me really appreciate my time on Alcatraz. I never realized how much I missed the guards and even the prisoners' company. Even though us guards were supposed to be hard and mean to the prisoners, we were one big family. However, I definitely do not miss the boat rides. I get extreme motion sickness! Imagine if every time you get into a car you would get into a boat! After this exciting finding I really want to try and reconnect with some of my old guard friends. It will be interesting to see what stories they can remember about our time on the rock.

Sincerely,

Miller Futero

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By: Carmela Gulisano

