

Living and Working in Paradise HUMMM—THAILAND!



by Jim Stapleton

ARRIBA Offshore Books

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Offshore Companies

Ed used to grill me for hours about these offshore companies; living, working and life in the tropics.

We would all get together and party. Late in the evening things would get wild. Someone would yell, "Offshore!" There was always taunting and teasing and an unnamable person would offer a dare. People would end up making commitments to attend a director's meeting in some tropical tax haven, a sunshine destination like Belize, Panama or Thailand. But not Ed!

"What's so great about your idea of living in the tropics?" Ed would ask.

"It's *Exotica*, Ed. You can imagine sitting on a beach of fine white coral sand, smoothed by last night's wind and tide. The water in front of you is calm. The shallows out front are dazzling, with hues of blue and azure and turquoise ripples. The colors are ever-changing with the undulations of the bottom of the sea."

"It's not like going for a two-week vacation. Living there is totally different."

Later, Ed had the opportunity to invest in the condo-villa area. There was some risk involved. The regional planning authority could have turned the whole condo idea down. After all, they have that rule that no building could be taller than a palm tree. "Palm tree? Which palm tree? What kind of palm tree? Would that be a Gringo Palm or a Panama Palm?" There seemed to be a difference. It was always a question of who you were and who you knew. The company got approval and they built the condo-villas And, yes, they sold like little hotcakes.

Paradise and Money

- We were at DeBeers in London viewing their diamond room.

They were mostly octahedrons and dodecahedrons and some macles too. Silvery, almost metallic-like, they lay in groups (*maybe for protection*); clears, pearls, pinks, blue and maybe red; with soft edges, they were heavy and cold. The girls started teasing me, saying, "Don't be afraid of them Mr. Stapleton. Pick them up. Look at them." I was frankly star-struck by the gaggles of roughies and the beautiful women, but I didn't dare touch any of them in case I became so attached that I would have to have them against all odds. "But just maybe," I thought to myself. Fortunately I had my Son to trade. "Maybe it would work." I felt sure they would like to have my Son, to keep at DeBeers. He is a handsome boy. He is a smart boy. Then there was the older gentleman—the one with the wooden club—guarding. (*Yes, really!*)

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You can read these books in two sittings; your connecting hub plus the time it takes to get to that sunshine destination.