

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

with Norris Barker

1) How did you end up in South Africa?

I have been drawn to South Africa all my life. Fate took me there. I was newly divorced and a friend of mine delivered aircraft to Africa and I hitched a ride. I tried to go after my military service in Germany in 1964 but it didn't work out.

2) How did you view apartheid in those days?

Abominably. I taught school in clandestine black street colleges in and around Johannesburg as well as sold second-hand clothing to poor people. I did not protest openly but expressed my opinions by helping the oppressed through black education and black business.

3) How did you get all those 1994 RSA historic ballot papers?

Being in the right place at the right time and being surprised no one else wanted them. I met Mandela in 1990 shortly after his release from prison, got a tip from some policemen in Soweto about hijacked ballots and then hounded the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) until the ballots eventually ended up on government Tender. I won 90% of the ballots awarded.

4) How did you meet Nelson Mandela?

By Divine Providence on Sunday Oct. 7, 1990. I left a funeral in Soweto and someone (maybe God) took me directly to Mandela and Winnie's table at the International Trade Centre in Johannesburg where he was speaking one evening.

5) Is corruption rife in South Africa?

It was then and still is. It is sad. The former and the present governments are totally corrupt. Read former ANC MP Andrew Feinstein's book, *AFTER THE PARTY*. I unknowingly disrupted a scheme to defraud the government of \$700,000 in 1994 by attempting to skim off and sell the very ballots I bid on and paid for. The government should thank me rather than forbid me to own the ballots I bought from them.

6) Who do you feel is out to prevent you from doing what you've been doing (selling) for 18 years?

The IEC, the ANC and the RSA government – a cabal who think they own Mandela. Mandela is their man and they are only interested in the \$US billions his name and image will rake in once he dies. I am a nascent thorn in their sides. They have no scruples or ethics over there. Look what they do to their own people.

7) Are you afraid?

You've got to be kidding. I love Mandela as much as they do (or more). I have had a wonderful life and am no threat to anyone.

8) What are your plans for the future?

If everything goes well, I would like to tap into the global market for Mandela memorabilia and form an alliance with a solid partner – my guess is Dubai, Kuwait, Qatar or Saudi Arabia.