

'Whites Only' signs could mean good business

A UNITED States businessman, Mr Norris Barker, is determined to make a mint out of South Africa's past by selling "Whites Only" signs and other apartheid memorabilia in the United States.

After an article in Saturday Star two weeks ago regarding the mysterious disappearance of South Africa's apartheid signs, Mr Barker said he was convinced that a "million-

dollar market" existed in the US.

"I am forming a company with black businessmen on a 51/49 per cent basis which will ensure loans from the United States once apartheid is over. We will use the sale of apartheid memorabilia as a springboard for other ventures."

Mr Barker intends shipping the memorabilia to his hometown of Wichita in Kansas where members

CHRIS MOERDYK

of his family will help with distribution and marketing.

Currently a mathematics teacher at a private black school in Johannesburg, Mr Barker came to South Africa in 1984 with the idea of selling second-hand American clothing and footwear to local blacks.

His attempts to establish the business in Venda were thwarted by the South African Government.

A number of Saturday Star readers have telephoned or written in to say, although museums in the country were having difficulty tracking down apartheid signs, these were still very much in evidence.

"Whites Only" signs were still to be seen in Bethal, for example, and

a Johannesburg businessman said that Heilbron was also clinging on to the past:

"I frequently drive through Heilbron on my trips around the country with visitors from overseas. And of course, they all make me stop at the municipal park so that they can photograph the 'Whites Only' and 'Admission Reserved' signs," he said.