

A STAR ON FOUR WHEELS



“The things I’ve learned at work come in very handy when restoring my vehicles.”

Simon Dandl, retired machine fitter, Brückner Maschinenbau

SIMON DANDL

Age: 63

Lives in: Grabenstätt (Bavaria)

Loves: the beauty of nature

Finds impossible: negative thinking



CLUBS There are 18 recognised Mercedes clubs in Germany alone.

THE DIFFERENCE between the clubs: the vehicle model.

SIMON is the proud owner of seven classic Mercedes: W116 – 280 SE, SL107 Coupe – 280 SLC, W126 – 260 SE, W123 – 230 E, C123 – 230 CE, W123 – 300 D, W123 – 300 D.

THREE MERCEDES CLUBS have Simon on their members’ list.



“I always strived to achieve more. By myself. With the aim of driving a Mercedes,” says Simon when remembering where his passion for collecting came from. The 63-year-old worked at Brückner for 48 years. He joined as an apprentice in 1967 and, after completing his military service in the 1970s, became a fitter at Brückner Maschinenbau in Siegsdorf. Simon has been enjoying retirement since September 2015.

He developed a passion for Mercedes models at an early age. As a teenager, he wanted to emulate his superiors, as well as his uncle Georg, who all drove one of these luxury cars at the time. “It motivated me to put more effort into my work.”

Strange but true: Simon has an accident to thank for his first Mercedes! In 1978, he had a collision that wasn’t his fault, and the insurance company paid out twice the value of his wrecked car. The Mercedes fan seized the opportunity with both hands and invested the cash in a 20-year-old Mercedes, featuring the famous three-pointed star. “That’s when I well-and-truly caught the Mercedes bug,” he remembers. He hasn’t driven another make of car since. Today, he is the proud owner of seven classic models – each one more impressive than the last. He is also a member of three Mercedes clubs. To fund his passion, the ambitious collector founded a property management company, which he ran alongside his full-time job until 2003.

In addition to his work and his passion for Mercedes cars, Simon also has a string of other hobbies: for decades, he has been passionately devoted to hang gliding, mountaineering and cycling. Always in motion to recharge his batteries: this has helped him get through some stressful times at work.