

# LAND OF DODGE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

## FROM ACROSS THE POND TO ... DODGE CENTER

### Dodge Center man sells British motorcycle parts



BY ALEX G. NUEHRING  
DCI CORRESPONDENT

The British Invasion is still going strong – in Dodge Center. Mitch Klempf, owner and operator of Klempf's British Parts, has sold motorcycle parts made by Triumph Motorcycles, a British motorcycle manufacturer, for over 40 years.

It's primarily a mail-order business, but Klempf's also does retail sales at its store in Dodge Center.

Klempf, 64, Dodge Center, said he got into Triumph motorcycles when he purchased his first one as a teenager.

"We've had tons of customers and some of them have been with us for 20 or 30 years so we must be doing something right or we wouldn't have them."

"It was always really hard to get parts for it because the dealer would never have the parts," he said. "So I started accumulating my own parts so I could keep my own bike going, and in the summer you couldn't wait two or three weeks for a part so it kind of went out of necessity."

Klempf said his collection kept growing bigger and bigger, and soon other people were asking him for parts.

"I kept buying more and more parts," he said. "I used to store them underneath my bed when I was living at home when I was still in high school. It just kind of got totally out of control."

He officially joined the motorcycle business in the late 1960s and early '70s.

He worked at a Triumph dealership in Minneapolis for a few years. Klempf then went out on his own, and founded Klempf's British Parts in 1975 in Rochester. He moved to Dodge Center in 1992.

The business continues to sell parts from 1982 Triumph motorcycles and earlier.

Klempf said Triumphs are unique because they're British and because they were made differently than other motorcycles.

Many are made with old technology, but with good material, and are made to be rebuilt. One example of that possible restoration is the crankshaft, which can be re-ground if it wears.

Triumphs also are popular because they're simple to work on.

"You don't need a computer," Klempf said. "You don't have to be a genius to work on them. People can fix a lot of the problems by themselves."

He said those reasons made Triumph one of the most popular motorcycle sellers in the world before Japanese motorcycles took over.

One downside of selling older motorcycles is that many of their buyers are also older, so they're most often trying to buy newer bikes with an electric start.

"I don't think it's a growing field, but we've been busy for years and years," Klempf said.

Julie Klempf, Mitch's wife and assistant, began working at Klempf's British Parts full-time in 2014 after retiring from Mayo Clinic after 23 years. She fulfills most of the computer work with the online store, pulls parts from the warehouses, and serves as bookkeeper.

She said she didn't know much about motorcycles before meeting Mitch, but she's learned a lot about the business and its benefits over the years.

"It pays the bills, we work nicely, and it is our own business, or his business, so you can run it the way you want, and that's an advantage," she said.

Another advantage is that customers will sometimes promote Klempf's by word of mouth.

In fact, she said she recently got a phone call from a new customer who had gotten their contact information with the motorcycle they had bought from a longtime Klempf's customer.

Those recommendable and lasting relationships are a result of Mitch Klempf's business philosophy.

"I think we do a really good job. We give people good quality parts, good service; we treat them fair and with respect," he said. "I treat them how I'd like to be treated when I go buy something. We've had tons of customers and some of them have been with us for 20 or 30 years so we must be doing something right or we wouldn't have them."

**Klempf's British Parts  
is located about two  
miles north off Highway  
14 at 61589 210th Ave.,  
Dodge Center.**

**The business is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through  
Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.**

Call 507-374-2222 or see [klempfsbritishparts.com](http://klempfsbritishparts.com) for more information.



KLEMPF'S BRITISH PARTS  
61589 210 AVE  
DODGE CENTER MN 55927  
[WWW.KLEMPFS.COM](http://WWW.KLEMPFS.COM)  
507.374.2222  
mitch@klempfs.com

Thank you for ordering parts for your vintage British motorcycle from Klempf's British Parts! We've been keeping these old bikes running for over 30 years now, and owe it all to our customers that loyally support us.

Most recently, Klempf's was one of the main purchasers of Domi Racer's vintage British inventory, as they recently went out of business. Prior to that, we acquired the remaining new inventory, website and catalog from Moores Cycle Supply and J&P Cycle Distributors in Connecticut, as Jeff and Pat Moores retired. We wish both parties the best in their future endeavors.

We believe that these purchases, as well as keeping a keen eye on industry changes and parts manufacturers will continue to enable us to better serve our existing customers in the future.

We have also recently launched our new website and E-store at [www.klempfs.com](http://www.klempfs.com). The website includes technical documentation that accompanies many of the parts we sell, and a series of "Mitch's Tips" that allow the customer to navigate problems and nuances associated with certain parts. The website also has current prices and a secure checkout platform, with pictures of each part. We are constantly updating the pictures, as we have to take over 20,000 of them for each part we have online! Once you register on the site, you can take advantage of all it has to offer in a secure fashion.

In an effort to keep our customers and any interested party abreast of industry news, events, and website updates, we have also launched a social media campaign comprised of Facebook, Twitter, and a periodical newsletter. You can subscribe to any of these services through our new website as well.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to serve your needs when it comes to keeping your British bike alive and well. Give us a call, drop us a line, and be sure to keep a lookout for what we at Klempf's British Parts has to offer.



Scan this QR  
code to go to  
Klempfs.com

Sincerely,

Mitch Klempf