

## *Pforzheim before 1945*

### **1909**

Theodor Fahrner was one of the most famous manufacturers of Jugendstil jewels. Famous designers supplied the jewel designs. The residential- and business house of Fahrner was located in the „Luisenstraße“ 52 and was extended in 1909. The office rooms and the flat of the director of the company was on street side, the manufacture rooms were yard-sided.

### **1900**

After initiation of the station, the nearby Leopold-suburb offered an ideal location for the jewel industry. Soon, a center of jewel fabrication developed between „Luisen-, Tunnel- and Durlacherstraße“, known as the so-called »Million District«. There existed a typical mix structure of manufacturers residents and factories.

### **1888**

In August 1888 Bertha Benz, maiden name Ringer, made the first long-distance trip with an automobile in accompaniment of her both sons. She drove from Mannheim to Pforzheim for visiting her mother.

The three-wheeled »Patented Motor Vehicle« was an invention of her husband Karl Benz. Bertha Benz supported with this trip of over 100 km the breakthrough of the automobile.

### **1849**

On 3rd of May 1849, Bertha Ringer was born as daughter of a master carpenter and constructor. The parental home was situated near this info stele, former named „Untere Ispringer Straße“ 11 (today „Berliner Straße“ 13). Bertha Ringer went to the „Höhere Töchterschule“ in Pforzheim. In Summer 1870 she met the engineer Karl Benz. Bertha and Karl married two years later. With her marriage portion Karl Benz opened an »Iron foundry and mechanical factory « in Mannheim.

## *Pforzheim after 1945*

### **2015**

In the 1950ies and 1960ies the „Berliner Straße“ obtained a simple reconstruction with residential and business houses. The local architect Karl Heinz Stocker planned in 1968 the prominent resident- and business house at the corner of „Berliner-„ and „Durlacher Straße“ as fair-faced concrete construction on one triangular ground plot.

### **2015**

The war-damaged Wilhelminian style house of 1898 at „Berliner Straße“ 14 was residence of the well-known jewel factory „F. Zerrenner“. It was rebuild in the early postwar period in a simplified way. Karl Friedrich Zerrenner has founded the company in 1843 which was internationally successful, amongst others, with Jugendstil jewelry. The company was dissolved in 2002.

### **1961**

The „Ispringer Straße“ was divided by building the railway in „Untere-“ and „Obere Ispringer Straße“. On 17th of June 1961, the former German Unity Day, the celebrated renaming of „Untere Ispringer Straße“ in Berliner Straße took place. This street-renaming should show sympathy with the city of Berlin that was divided at that time.

### **1946**

The air attack of 23rd February 1945 and the following clearing of the wreckage erased the complete district of the Leopold suburb with its Wilhelminian buildings.