

Get in the fucking time machine bitch. It's 1849. I literally couldn't even tell you what was going on during this time except for this story.

Bertha Ringer was born in 1849 to a wealthy family in Pforzheim in the Grand Duchy of Baden (now modern day Germany.) Bertha was interested in technical matters at a super early age. Whenever her father, who was a wealthy carpenter, would explain the workings of an automotive to her, her eyes would light up. When she was allowed to attend a school for 'high-born daughters' at the age of nine, her favorite lessons were those on 'natural science'. Whatever that means in those days.

Then Bertha gets a curveball thrown at her. One day, she's reading the family bible and comes across an entry from her father that reads 'unfortunately only a girl again.' This entry was written on the day she was born. So Bertha has traumaaaaaaaaa bitch.

Not much is known about her between then and when she's 21.

In the year of 1869, Bertha and her mom are taking part in a 'coach excursion', when a penniless engineer boards the same coach and starts talking about his 'horseless carriage' he was working on. Who is this man you may be asking?

His name was Karl Benz. Karl Benz was born Karl Friedrich Michael Vaillant in November of 1844 in Muhlburg, Baden, Germany. His parents were Josephine Vaillant and a locomotive driver, Johann Benz, who she married a few months after giving birth to baby Karl. According to German law, the child acquired the name Benz by legal marriage of his parents.

When he was two, his father died of pneumonia, and his name was changed to Karl Benz in remembrance of his father.

Karl lived in near poverty for most of his early life, but his mother wanted him to have a good education. Benz attended the local school and was basically a prodigy. In 1853, at the age of 9, he started at the scientifically oriented Lyceum. What the fuck is that Sierra? Well lemme tell ya.

A Lyceum is a category of educational institution defined within the education system of many countries, but mostly Europe. The definition varies among countries, but it's a type of secondary school. Stupid definition doesn't make any sense.

Ok so after the Lyceum he studied at Karlsruhe's polytechnical school. Benz originally focused his studies on locksmithing, but eventually followed in his father's footsteps towards locomotive engineering.

On September 30, 1860, at age 15, he passed the entrance exam for mechanical engineering at the same school, and graduated at age 19. So good for Karl.

So after his formal education, Benz had seven years of professional training for several companies, but did not fit in well with any of them. Sounds like a fuckin nerd.

So then Karl got the fuck out of that situation and started working as a draftsman and designer in a scales factory. In 1868, he went to Pforzheim to work for a bridge building factory. A year later, he boards a coach with two women on it.

So Bertha, Karl, and Bertha's mom are chillin on the carriage when Karl starts talking about this "horseless carriage" that he's working on. Bertha is fucking shook. It's obvious that she was very interested in the field of engineering, and this weird guy just got on her carriage talking about something that sounded absolutely insane at the time.

Little side quest - in the 19th century it was common for young women to have dowries. A dowry is basically like a savings account that your parents create for you, and then give to your husband when you get married. Fucked.

Anyway, Bertha had this hefty dowry from her wealthy family and wanted to invest in Karl's fun little project. So in 1870, Bertha invests in Karl's failing iron construction company so that he could begin a new thing, Benz & Company. The business focused on the manufacture of industrial machines and eventually began producing gasoline engines, allowing Karl to pursue his ultimate invention.

Bertha's father? Pissed. He warned her repeatedly that the pleasures of the middle-class lifestyle do not come by themselves, and that financial hardship brings problems of which she did not have the slightest idea. But nothing would stop her from getting married. She used her entire dowry to build his company. Which, like, would've happened cause the dowry would've gone to Karl anyway.

SO.

In 1872, Bertha and Karl got married. So much for keeping work and personal lives separate.

It took YEARS for Karl to create a working prototype, and Bertha was not silent about any of it. Karl was not a businessman. Karl was a fuckin nerd. Bertha, she was a god damn businesswoman.

Oh and in 1873, they had a kid, then another in 1874, and another in 1877, another in 1882, and one more in 1890.

So Bertha was a big part of the design process and ended up helping Karl make a lot of improvements. Bertha was also a field tester for the vehicle.

Technically, the first Benz Patent Motowagen was completed in december 1885, and the first patent was registered on January 29 of 1886. Since the public wasn't buying, Karl kept doing his nerd thing. No one could be persuaded that the motorwagen could replace the reliability of a horse, especially when it came to long-distance travel. On July 3rd of 1886, Benz presented his automobile to the public in Mannheim. With cutting edge bicycle constructions, the Model I was the original patent motor car and the world's first automobile.

The Model II was converted to a four wheeler for test purposes, making it the only one of this model. The first patent motor car sold in small production runs was the Model III. It had powered rear wheels with a ringed steel and solid rubber, steerable front wheel.

Two years go by. Bertha is fucking tired of people not taking her husbands weird thing seriously.

It's August, 1888. Early as shit in the morning. Bertha wants to go see her mom, who lives around 67 miles away, and has a great idea on how to get there. Fuck riding a horse, that shit is gonna take a day and a half.

Bertha grabs her two sons, Richard and Eugen (13 and 15), Karl's 'driver's license', (basically a piece of paper signed by an officer of the ducal district office of Baden allowing Karl to drive his machine on public roads,) and the Model III. She starts the bad boy up and is off. The car only had two gears, so she would make her sons push her and the car up and steep hills. Guess how fast it went. 10mph.

Bertha wanted to prove to her husband, who was horrible at marketing, that the automobile in which they both had heavily invested would become a financial success once it was shown to be useful to the public.

Bertha is a smart bitch. She planned her route so that she would always be near a pharmacy, because gas stations didn't exist back then. With no fuel tank and only a 4.5-liter supply of petrol in the carburetor, she had to find ligroin, which is a petroleum solvent that made the car run. The solvent, ligmaballs, was only available at apothecary shops, so she stopped in Wiesloch at the pharmacy to purchase the fuel.

When she stopped in at the pharmacy and asked for her stupid amount of ligma, the chemist working thought she was crazy. This random lady's dress is soiled, and her appearance does not match her demeanor and speech. He tells her that she will only need one liter of cleaning fluid to remove the stains on her dress, but Bertha is one stubborn bitch. She insists on buying the entire shop's

stock of ligroin so she can refuel her goddamn car. Duh, idiot.

Other cool things Bertha did on her trip:

- Cleaned a blocked fuel line with her hat pin
- Used her garter as insulation material when a wire short circuited
- Had a blacksmith mend a chain
- Visited a cobbler to have them install leather on the breaks

She reached Pforzheim, where her mom lived, somewhat after dusk, and notified her husband of her successful journey by telegram. She drove back to their home in Mannheim several days later.

This drive was a key event in the technical development of the automobile. The couple introduced several improvements after Bertha's experience.

She basically invented the test drive.

THE END.