

How shall I ask thee?

By Steve Smith
Senior Editor

"Will you marry me?"

It's been said in the warmth of romantic candlelight. It's been requested on one knee. It's been asked in such bizarre places as a parking lot, a football game and even on network TV.

Some say the marriage proposal is, in today's society, after the fact. Usually, the bride-to-be and groom-to-be go to a jewelry store, pick out a ring and then wait to pay it off. The day that he can own the ring in full is the day many couples decide to officially begin their engagement.

But a few future Lincoln newlyweds have taken the unconventional route.

One UNL couple began their engagement as someone else tied the knot.

Renee Moyses, a senior advertising major, was simply attending a friend's wedding. Her boyfriend of two years, senior broadcasting major Rob Ford, was the best man.

Ford had a few tricks up his sleeve, which he started planning about a month before the wedding.

"I had my mother's engagement ring and my grandmother's engagement ring in my jewelry box, and I had always wanted them to be part of my engagement ring, too," Moyses said. "Unbeknownst to me, Rob called my roommate about a month before our friends' wedding and asked her to get them for him."

Moyses said when she discovered the rings missing, she confronted her roommate about it. Her roommate told her Rob had taken them to get the diamonds set in a watch, which he wanted to buy her for Christmas.

"She had me totally sold on that," Moyses said. She thought little about the rings until Dec. 7, 1991, the day of their

friend's wedding.

Ford had clued the entire wedding party in on his plans several nights before the wedding, Moyses found out later.

"Everybody knew but me," she said. "Now that I think of it, people were asking me a lot of funny questions and looking at me strangely, too. I guess I know why now."

Eventually, the reception rolled around.

"The bride threw the bouquet and her sister caught it," Moyses said. "I remember remarking that it was a good thing I didn't catch it, because Rob would've probably hit the floor if I had."

The reception's DJ said that the photographer hadn't gotten a picture of the sister catching the bouquet, so he requested they restage the event.

"He said, 'Renee, make sure you get out there, too,'" she said. "I didn't think it was odd at the time."

The bride switched bouquets — to one that had an engagement ring on it, complete with diamonds from Moyses's mother's and grandmother's engagement rings — and threw it right at her.

She said the ring was attached to one of the ribbons that decorated the bouquet.

"When I caught it, I could feel the ring hit my hand," she said. "Rob was afraid that I wouldn't find it right away, but there was no problem with that."

"Then, in front of the entire reception crowd of about 250 people, he asked me to marry him."

— **66** —
He was sitting at a table, all by himself, with a dozen roses and a diamond ring. When he asked me to marry him, the whole bar applauded.

— Johnson
Lincoln resident

— **99** —



David Badders/DN

9 to 12 months

- Announce engagement
- Select wedding date and time
- Set preliminary budget

- Reserve ceremony & reception location
- Compile guest list
- Select attendants
- Choose caterer, photographer, florist
- Choose minister, judge, rabbi or priest

4 to 6 months

- Pick out dresses
- Schedule premarital counseling if necessary

- Make final ceremony arrangements
- Check legal requirements
- Decide on final reception menu
- Order wedding invitations

- Buy the ring
- Discuss date and type of ceremony with fiancée
- Choose best man and ushers
- Start planning honeymoons

6 to 12 months

- Shop for wedding rings
- Complete guest list
- Select and order men's formals
- Finalize honeymoon plans

4 months