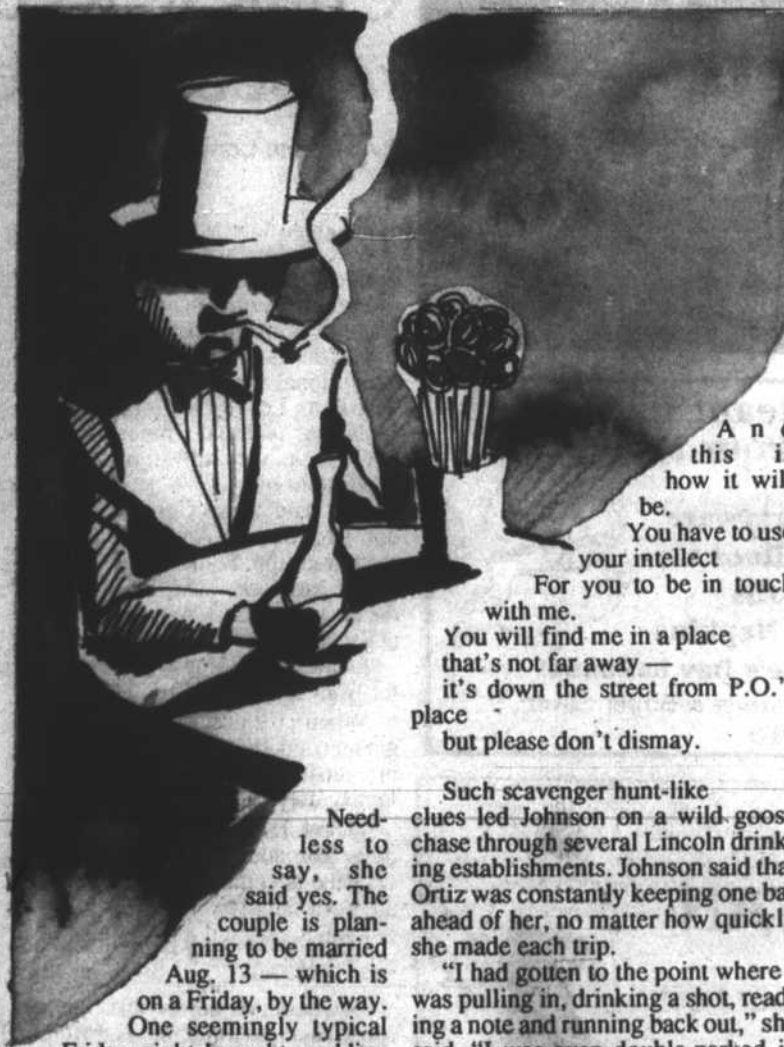




Michelle Paulman/DN



David Badders/DN

And this is how it will be.
 You have to use your intellect
 For you to be in touch with me.
 You will find me in a place that's not far away — it's down the street from P.O.'s place — but please don't dismay.

Needless to say, she said yes. The couple is planning to be married Aug. 13 — which is on a Friday, by the way. One seemingly typical Friday night brought wedding bells to another Lincoln couple. Kim Johnson, 24, of Lincoln, drove to Fernando's Salon, to pick up her boyfriend, Tom Ortiz, on Dec. 18, 1991. It was her birthday and the two had planned to go out to dinner.

"When I got to the salon, the receptionist said Tom had already left and had gone to a nearby bar called The Library," Johnson said. "When I got there, I found a red rose, a shot of liquor and a note for me."

The bartender told her that she had to do the shot before reading the note, Johnson said. After gulping down the drink, she opened up the envelope to see:

This is what you've waited for

Darlene Smith, a student at Lincoln East High School, and boyfriend Tyson Cyriacks hold hands at the Wedding Fair. Smith and Cyriacks both work at the M & P Bakery.

Such scavenger hunt-like clues led Johnson on a wild-goose chase through several Lincoln drinking establishments. Johnson said that Ortiz was constantly keeping one bar ahead of her, no matter how quickly she made each trip.

"I had gotten to the point where I was pulling in, drinking a shot, reading a note and running back out," she said. "I was even double-parked in front of Chesterfield's."

Finally, the messages led her to Barrymore's, where Ortiz awaited.

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

"One of his clients, who happened to be there, bought us a bottle of champagne," she said. "The whole bar was in on it. What a night."

To conclude this sobering love story, Ortiz and Johnson will be married in June.

So, there you have it — just a couple examples of unconventional ways to propose, and here in little ol' Lincoln town.

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

— Moyses senior advertising major

3 to 6 months

- Plan music for ceremony and reception
- Address invitations
- Register for bridal registry

1 month

- Have final fittings for wedding apparel
- Get blood test and marriage license
- Purchase all accessories

1 week

- Have dinner rehearsal
- Pack for honeymoon
- Take care of last minute details with photographer, caterer, ect.
- Release wedding news to local paper

- Finalize details with officiant
- Assist parents with rehearsal dinner
- Discuss floral arrangements (expenses are traditionally the groom's responsibility)
- Make sure attendants have been fitted
- Take care of legal aspects

2 months

- Arrange transportation for wedding day
- Discuss all final plans
- Pick up wedding attire
- Reconfirm honeymoon arrangements

1 to 2 weeks

Scott Maurer/DN