

# Diamonds are a girl's best friend

Candlelight and wine, soft music, a low fire in a fireplace and, sweet surprise, a ring and a whispered "Marry me." All of these are legendary ingredients for the romantic beginning of a life together, a marriage proposal.

Yours wasn't like that? Neither, it seems, were many others outside novels. In real life the big question appears to more often be resolved by sometimes casual mutual agreement.

A local post office employe, Virginia Riggins, 32, said husband Herahel, 38, didn't ask. After one year of dating, "he just told me we were getting married."

"And we did," she laughed, "six years ago."

Whirlwind courtships leave little time for formalities like proposals, as Margie Mellick, 30, learned 11 years ago when she and Guy, 33, were married after a four-week-long romance at the University of Arizona in TUCSON. She was a sophomore and he, now with GM, was working on a masters in business administration.

"I do not remember him proposing; there was no time. It was

more a mutual agreement."

With a wide grin and twinkling eyes, John Pollis, a fireman remembered very clearly his proposal to wife Lillian.

"We were riding the bus home from a Detroit nightclub in 1948," he said. "We had been dating for two or three years and I just said,

Dick May became engaged.

On the day he planned to give her a ring and make it official, Dick, a lawyer, had a dinner meeting with clients that went on and on into the night.

"I suspected he was bringing a ring that night and tried to wait up for him. Finally, I gave up and

having been delayed.

Carl Culver, after 31 years of marriage, still teases wife Betty about his good taste in choosing her.

"But I always say 'Oh, no, I'm the one with good taste. I picked you out,' because I proposed to him."

It was 1944 and he was going off to war, she said. "We had been dating for a while and I just said 'I think we should get married before you go.'"

Octogenarian Fred Floeter, a widower, remembered a five-year-long courtship interrupted by service with the Army's 32nd Division on the Mexican border in 1916 and later in World War I.

"That was 52 years ago. I can't remember what I said to Irene. I did not get on my knees but I spoke to her father about it. By that time, both of us knew we wanted to marry," he said.

Any young women daydreaming about lighthearted Prince Charmings and movie-romantic proposals may instead participate in a casual mutual agreement as another tradition goes the way of unicorn.

—VIVIAN BYRD SCHWARTZ



very casually, 'I think we ought to get married.' She agreed and we are still married, 26 years later."

All the world does not always love lovers, or at least it does not always cooperate with them. After six weeks of dating, Sarah and

went to bed," Sarah said.

But Dick refused to be thwarted and showed up at Sarah's house shortly after midnight. She put on an elegant dressing gown, he built a fire in the fireplace and the evening became more romantic for

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