THE DALLAS POST

There are new rules of engagement

By AIMEE TJADER Star Tribune

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An unsuspecting woman cast lake recently only to reel in a dazzling diamond ring, which had fessional divers underwater.

and dance before getting on one knee.

To stage his proposal, a selfproclaimed "thrill-seeker" enlisted the help of a pair of Minneapolis cops to fake his arrest for hom-

more people are finding elabopropose marriage, wedding industry experts say. For many

ence.

Some grooms-to-be are even hiring a "proposal planner" - for a fee of \$2,000 to \$10,000 - who all her fishing line into a Twin Cities but promises that the bride-to-be will say yes.

been attached to the hook by pro- once, so I wanted this to be an tance." engagement to remember," Ryan An Ikea shopping trip for an- Calhoun, 28, said of his "shock- question with a ring is no longer other couple ended with the fu- ing" arrest proposal, which he enough. Most women want to posed is usually one of the first ture groom breaking into song said had little romance but plenty of adrenaline. "It was a little risky, and it takes the right wom- surveyed feel the "Surprise facan to do something like this."

public spectacles to private, jetsetting fairy tales, popping the Health magazine. icide in front of his future bride. question is not just becoming a Those stories may be rare, but bigger deal. It's big business, too. since the 1970s, Rich Nordstrom, rate, sometimes extreme ways to The Nashville author and re- in St. Louis Park, said he's searcher of generations Y and Z said couples are getting married ing the distance to propose, becouples, the marriage proposal later in life and typically living cause it hasn't always been that has become part of the wedding together before they're engaged, way. build-up, complete with paparaz- therefore demystifying the pro-

an event.

er of adulthood that it used to be," Lynch said.

"It's a bigger decision to make, er." so the proposal and the wedding "I'm only getting married have accorded more impor-

pick out their engagement rings, yet nearly 70 percent of women tor" is essential to the perfect From engagements that create proposal, according to a joint survey by theknot.com and Men's

Having been in the business pleased to see that guys are go-

"This is something you're gozi-style photography to capture posal process - to the point that ing to remember forever and

the moment, and often, an audi- they feel the need to turn it into reminisce about," he said. "Since she already knows she's getting a "Marriage isn't the usual mark- ring, there's more pressure to surprise her so that moment is burned into her memory forev-

> Meaghan Butzer, 31, of Minneapolis, says her "fairy tale" engagement is the topic of conver-Local jewelers say popping the sation at the Edina, Minn., salon where she works. How he prothings inquiring minds want to know.

Butzer's fiance, an airline pilot, surprised her with a recent trip to Mackinac Island in Michigan via an open-cockpit airplane that was used as a military trainer in World War II.

"He put so much thought and tale," Butzer said. "I wasn't expecting it at all. ... I wasn't wearing clothes suited for oil to be dripping everywhere, but he'd packed my flight suit."

МСТ РНОТО Amy Lynch isn't surprised. manager of Bergstrom Jewelers effort into it - it felt like a fairy Jason Dailey and his wife Shelly, of Richfield, Minnesota have

been married for three years. Jason, who spent months forming the perfect marriage proposal, gave her a painting of the very spot where they were standing, Buckingham Fountain in Chicago. The painting depicted a couple wearing the same clothes as Jason and Shelly and the man on a bended knee.



By KRISTIN TILLOTSO Star Tribune

Emma Rosen is soon to become that between 2 and 4 percent in below 20 percent in 2001. Emma Sugerman. Rosen, 25, who works in health care marketing, will legally take the last name of her husband-to-be, medical student Noah Sugerman, when the two marry this summer.

Vanessa Messersmith, 32-yearold owner of the hip clothing shop lacklist Vintage, took the name her husband Jeremy, a musian, when they married six years ago. Both consider themselves to be feminists, and neither made the decision lightly.

The majority of married women in America have always chosen to legally assume their grooms' last names. But at the end of the 20th century, more women retained their maiden names as a way of retaining individual identi- 1975 kept their names. Those

ty.

numbers sharply increased A widely-noted Harvard study through the 1970s and 1980s beof college-educated women found fore declining in the 1990s to just

Something Old • Something New Something Borrowed • Something Blue And A Six Pence In Her Shoe

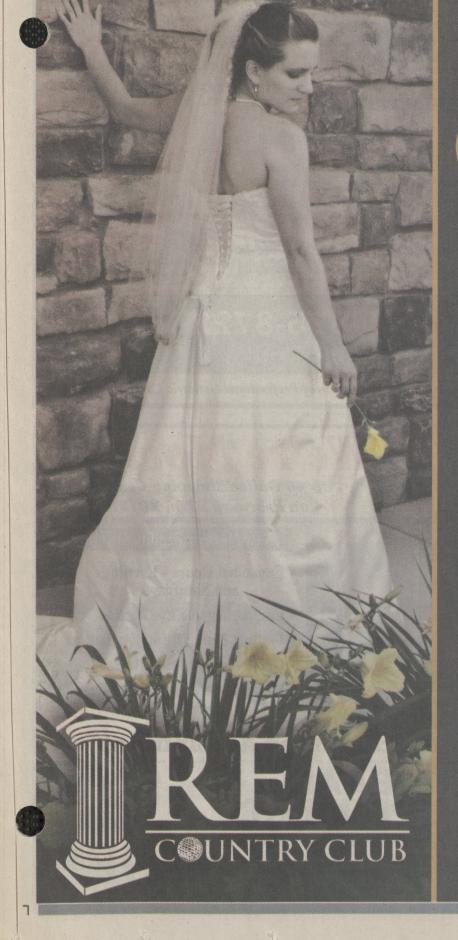




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PAGE 7



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