

# Matched for love

## Cross-country romance blossoms into marriage

By LINDSAY BUTLER  
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Scott Vernon had tried everything. Web sites. Personal ads. Dating services

And he still couldn't find Miss Right.

It wasn't until the Chandler engineer, 46, employed a matchmaker that he found the love of his life.

"I knew she was out there somewhere" he said. "Then all of a sudden my life changed."

Vernon worked with Scottsdale matchmaker Bonnie Wills, better know as "Bonnie the Matchmaker." Wills' service was different because she took the time to get to know him and knew what he was looking for, Vernon said.

Bonnie the Matchmaker caters to a select group. Her clients must be educated, working and datable.

"this is a luxury service for those that can afford it," she said. Her fees range from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

The clients also must be nonsmokers and they must be height-weight proportional.

"I'm a matchmaker," she said. "That does not mean I can perform miracles."

Wills interviews her clients over the phone and in person, has them fill out an extensive questionnaire about their interests and does a background check.

Only then do her clients get a date.

Will matches up her clients and asks them whether they would like to meet. If they say yes, she gives the woman's phone number to the man.

"Women like to be called," she said.

Vernon met his wife, Julie, through Wills' service. Wills hear about Julie through a matchmaker in Ohio, and even though it was long distance, decided Vernon might be right for her.

Vernon called Julie in August, and the two clicked right away. They spent hours on the phone, sometimes late into the night. In September he flew out to meet her.

They met at a restaurant and immediately hugged -- then kissed. As they talked, a man approached them and handed them a dollar.

"He said, 'That was the best kiss I ever saw,'" Vernon said. They still have the dollar.

The two were engaged by the end of November. Vernon proposed at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas with a poem that ended with, "Sweet Julie, will you marry me?"

She responded, "Uh huh," followed by a more audible, "Yes."

The two were married Jan. 4 and plan a honeymoon to Europe in the spring.

Julie Vernon, 37, said she never dreamed she would be living in Arizona. She had spent most of her life in Ohio and had a few serious relationships. When she happened to meet a matchmaker, she thought, "What the heck?"

"My life has changed so beautifully," she said.

Wills can't promise every client love or marriage, but she can guarantee that her clients will meet people and have opportunities for relationships.

"I don't do arranged marriages," she said.



**MR. AND MRS. BROWN:** Scott and Julie Vernon of Chandler met through a matchmaking service, were married Jan. 4 and are planning a spring honeymoon in Europe.