

UNUSUAL ROTARIANS

ROSES represent far more than beauty to Robert V. Lindquist, of Hemet, California. He is vice-president and director of research of a 1,000-acre rose ranch which annually ships out 1½ million rosebushes. Annually he develops new hybrid strains, some of which have gained world fame. And he has found ways, through flowers, to help international friendship bloom.

Bob's great grandfather and grandfather were nurserymen in Finland, and his father, now 84, was a nurseryman in Sweden and England before settling in California as partner of Charles W. Howard in the large rose-growing firm, Howards of Hemet. Growing up in a rose field, Bob, the only Lindquist son, always knew he wanted to be a rose grower, a "rosarian." After graduation from the University of Southern California, he joined the family firm, where he shares management duties with Charles Howard's sons, Paul and Charles Jr.

Well inland, just west over the San Bernardino mountain range from the resort city of Palm Springs, the rose ranch is in desert country where irrigation is necessary and Summer temperatures rise to 110 degrees. Harvest-



Robert Lindquist and his all-America Rose, Granada.

His Life's A BED OF ROSES

*Champion of flowers and of international friendship,
Robert V. Lindquist has found ways to combine them.*

ing of the rosebushes, which are planted 20,000 to the acre, takes place in January. The plants, 225 varieties of them but all grafts on "Dr. Huey" rootstock, are packed in moss in boxes and held in 18 cold-storage plants around the U.S.A. until distributed to retailers.

Development of new strains is vital for a large rose firm like Howards. But this involves a slow, painstaking process, and a research director must not only be aware of what the public will want in a rose and have the scientific background to go ahead and find it; he must also be an exceedingly patient man.

Bob Lindquist will tell you that it takes seven to ten years to "bring out" a new rose—from the time of the

first cross until the hybrid becomes available in nurseries across the country. During this time, complete and accurate case histories on thousands of seedlings are kept by Howards of Hemet specialists.

Seeds from plants with desirable characteristics are planted in flats in greenhouses, and following the first bloom the roses that pass critical inspection for all-round favorable characteristics are selected for outdoor planting. After constant vigilance and severe culling, budwood is taken only from those plants that show promise, and the process customarily is repeated for at least another season of inspection and selection.

Finally, one or two varieties may be adjudged worthy