



Starting with a Smith & Wesson Model 66 Bowen builds this exquisite double action .327 Federal Magnum.



## THE SIXGUNS OF

# HAMILTON BOWEN



Hamilton Bowen uses the Ruger 50th Anniversary Model .357 Blackhawk as the platform for this exquisite .327 Federal conversion.



Both of these Bowen .327 Federal Magnum conversions started life as Ruger .32 Magnum Single-Sixes.

All of the dedicated sixgunners in my acquaintance have several things in common. Certainly not the least of which is having spent much time during their younger years staring at pictures of custom sixguns in Elmer Keith's book *Sixguns*. Many of us have searched out his old articles from the 1920s and 1930s found in the *American Rifleman*. Early in our marriage,

Dot and I had some tough times. I was attending college full time and working full time to provide for Dot and our three little kids. One of the many things which helped to keep me going was to be able to look at those pictures and dream of *someday*. Someday — when I would actually have such sixguns I could call my own.

All of the men and establishments connected with Elmer Keith and his

custom sixguns, such as Harold Croft, E.F. Sedgley, J.D. O'Meara, Neal Houchins, King Gunsight Co. and the Gun Re-Blue Co., were long gone before us I could ever afford anything close to the work they provided. That's the downside. The wonderful upside is the fact we have a dozen or more custom sixgunsmiths plying their trade today who are every bit as good, and probably even better.

