

Flashback

Back in the Saddle Again



Photo from Air Force Magazine. Text by Andrea K. Dudney

Hollywood's "Singing Cowboy," Gene Autry, and his famed horse, Champion, provide AFA a bit of free publicity at the 1946 World's Championship Rodeo at Madison Square Garden in New York. Autry, 39, a charter member of AFA, had been away for a while. He served in World War II in USAAF, where he advanced from enlisted ranks to flight officer and was a transport

pilot. This photo was taken shortly after his honorable discharge. By the time he retired from show business in 1964, Autry had starred in some 100 Westerns, sold more than 100 million records, and enjoyed hit shows on radio and television. Even his trusty steed had his own show—"The Adventures of Champion," broadcast on CBS.