



Pressing On: The Roni Stoneman Story (Music in American Life)

Roni Stoneman, Ellen Wright

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The tragicomic life story of one of America's best-known country entertainers, told with warmth and honesty

This book recounts the fascinating life of Roni Stoneman, the youngest daughter of the pioneering country music family, and a girl who, in spite of poverty and abusive husbands, eventually became "The First Lady of Banjo," a fixture on the Nashville scene, and, as *Hee Haw*'s Ironing Board Lady, a comedienne beloved by millions of Americans nationwide.

Drawn from over seventy-five hours of recorded interviews, *Pressing On* reveals that Roni is also a master storyteller. In her own words and with characteristic spunk and candor, she describes her "pooristic" ("way beyond 'poverty-stricken'") Appalachian childhood, and how she learned from her brother Scott to play the challenging and innovative three-finger banjo picking style developed by Earl Scruggs. She also warmly recounts *Hee Haw*-era adventures with Minnie Pearl, Roy Clark, and Buck Owens; her encounters as a musician with country greats including Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash, June Carter, and Patsy Cline; as well as her personal struggles with shiftless and violent husbands, her relationships with her children, and her musical life after *Hee Haw*.

A volume in the series Music in American Life

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