

# DAISY OF STRAWBERRY PARK

BY CARLA JONES



**"I SHALL ONLY PASS THIS WAY BUT ONCE,**

**SO I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN."**

This is the wisdom that Daisy Anderson Leonard has gathered throughout her life.

Daisy was born December 14, 1900, in Harden County, Tennessee. Her parents Alice Graham and John Wesley Graham had five boys and three girls. Daisy was the oldest of the eight children.

Daisy has many memories of her childhood, "one of my first memories," Daisy recalls, "was the home my mother and dad had. The cabin had one room to use for cooking, eating, and sleeping. My mother would put us to bed, four at one end of the bed, and four at the other end."

## • CHILDHOOD

There were lots of snakes where Daisy's family lived. Fortunately no one ever was bitten. She remembers, "One day my mother told me to go and get the cow so she could milk it. When I got the cow it had already been milked. My mother thought a snake had wrapped itself around the cow's legs and sucked out the milk."

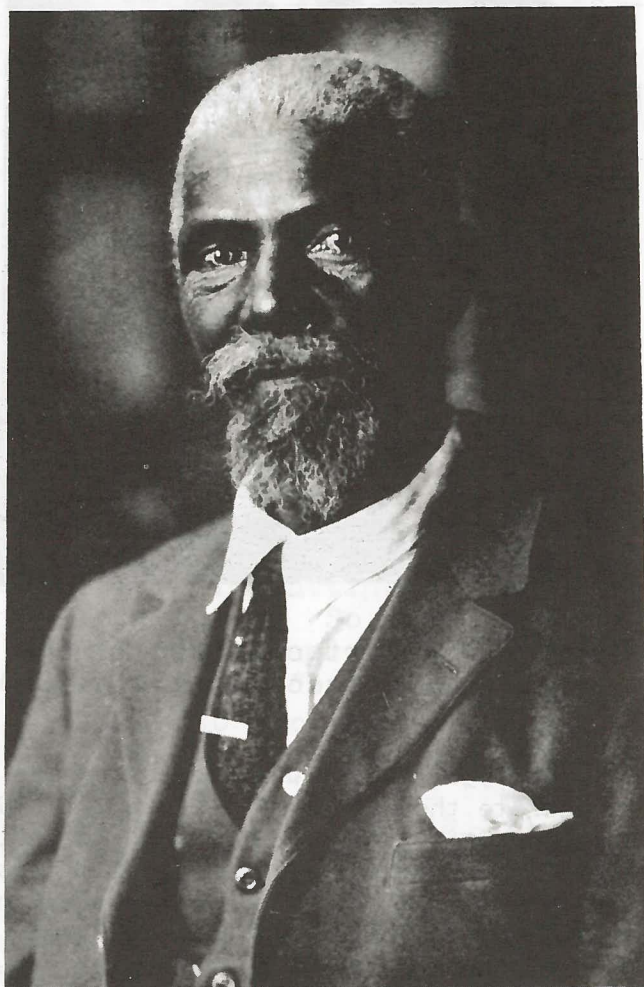
Daisy did a lot of work as she was growin up. She stripped the leaves off the sweet Sorghum Cane so it could be cut and made into Sorghum Syrup. The syrup is made by pressing the juice out of the stems with rollers and boiling it down to the proper thickness.



"Working has been my life."

As a teenager Daisy also picked cotton, but picking cotton was a back-breaking job. Daisy laughs, "I got so sick of picking cotton that I thought I would like to go to a country where they didn't raise cotton. But now I appreciate the feel and wear of cotton materials."

When Daisy was 22 she married Robert Anderson 79, in Arkansas. For their honeymoon they traveled by train to Colorado Springs, and then to his big ranch in Western Nebraska. "I had a wonderful life with him, he took me on trips around the country and we met a lot of people and did many things I never dreamed of doing."



Daisy's husband Robert Anderson  
Ex-Slave



Front view of our ranch house.



Daisy and Robert on their honeymoon at Colorado Springs. (1922)

In 1930, Robert died and Daisy was left to operate the ranch. The drought of 1934 came and Daisy ran out of money and lost the ranch. "I received a letter from my sister, telling me that there is plenty to eat here in Colorado. There is fine wild game. Elk, deer, fish, grouse and wild berries, fruits, with a little effort one can survive."

Daisy packed what clothes she had in a potato sack and got a train from Nebraska to Denver in 1937. She earned enough money to get a train ride to Steamboat.

In Steamboat, Daisy worked at many jobs, picking potatoes, cleaning houses, and doing odd and end jobs for people. At the end of 1937 she bought a place in Strawberry Park where she now lives.

On Daisy's place she started gardening. She had great success growing potatoes, onions, and all kinds of vegetables. Within the next five years Daisy and her sister



Daisy on the steps of the ranch home, just after her marriage.

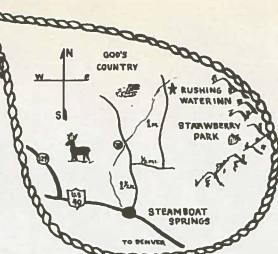
Mae had ten acres of strawberries and raspberries.

## **- JELLY AND JAM FACTORY**

Just across from Daisy's place Mae started a restaurant in 1943 called "The Rushing Water Inn". What berries that were left from their strawberry and raspberry shortcake, Mae and Daisy would make into jelly. "By noon the next day we were sold out."

After the strawberry and raspberry season ended, Daisy and Mae would start making jelly and jam out of the wild berries. They hired twelve kids from town ages ten to fifteen to take a five pound pail and a sack lunch and go up into the hills and pick chokecherries and service-berries. Each of the children made twenty-five cents a gallon.

# Your Pleasure is Most Important at RUSHING WATER INN



## THE INN AND CABINS

We offer rustic cabins shining clean as the mountain air itself . . . comfortable as a bed of velvet moss in the summer sun. Listen to Soda Creek ripple by from your room, designed to match the mood of the mountains and enhance the mood of our guests . . . perfect comfort for a perfect vacation.

## UMM! THAT FOOD!

Mountain air gives zest to the appetite, and our tender, home grown chickens, fresh vegetables, and ripe, juicy strawberries and raspberries taste extra good. We specialize in fried chicken, steaks, mountain trout, and other mouth watering entrees to suit your particular taste. Rushing Water Inn has a national reputation for food at stake with every meal served. We jealously protect that reputation.

## CHILDREN WELCOME

We offer a real welcome to children of all sizes and have a special youngsters' playground at Rushing Water Inn. There's

something to keep them busy every minute, and how they love our strawberry shortcake!

## FISHING

Come drop your line from uncrowded banks into rapidly tumbling streams or deep, natural pools. Catch your own delectable mountain trout. Dream by a stream or battle it out with the big ones. We have the anglers returning year after year.

## HUNTING

Our forests shelter boundless elk, deer and bear of prize winning dimensions and the area for miles around Steamboat Springs is famed for good hunting. Enjoy one of the world's most thrilling sports in some of the nation's best hunting grounds.

## GUIDE SERVICE

Licensed guides are at the inn. Elk, deer, predator, and bear hunting trips arranged in season with excellent results assured. We'll also guide you to the best fishing spots.

## HORSES

Fine riding horses for exhilarating gallops on cool mornings, or quiet trots through woodland trails. Special excursions and moonlight trips arranged. Pack and hunting animals, too.

## SWIMMING

You've never known what swimming can be 'til you've gone for a dip and relaxed and enjoyed a lazy, wonderful swim in the Steamboat Springs natural hot pool, open year 'round.

## STUPENDOUS SCENERY

Rushing Water Inn is settled in a natural valley amidst towering mountains, gigantic canyons, dense forests, and a profusion of wild flowers of every variety, including Colorado's beautiful blue columbine. Sparkling Soda Creek rushes by the Inn, and our fine lawns, well-supplied with comfortable chairs, make peaceful vantage points for the spectacular beauty that is ours . . . and yours . . . to enjoy.



**RUSHING WATER INN • FAMED FOR FOOD • COMFORT • ACTIVITIES**



Another wild nature product that makes good jelly is rose hips. After the wild rose blooms a red "apple" develops. Here are the steps in making Rose Hip Jelly.

1. Wash the hips and put them in a pan with enough water to cover them.
2. Bring to a boil and simmer until hips are soft.
3. Run hips through sieve.
4. For extra flavor mix fresh or canned pineapple juice with the rose hip juice.

Then follow the same method as making strawberry and raspberry jelly.

Even today Daisy makes the juice and then stores it in jars. "Once a day I take a teaspoon of Rose Hip juice which has more Vitamin C than orange juice."

## • FISHING GUIDE

Since the restaurant was doing so well Daisy built some cabins to rent out. Many of the guests who came to the cabins and restaurant wanted something to do and to see the area around Steamboat. So Daisy and Mae

became two of the four licensed women fishing guides in Colorado. "I enjoyed being a fishing guide because I met some very funny and lovely people," replies Daisy, as she reminisces about the old days.



"Fishing in the rivers and lakes were never very good because the fish were "smarter".



The traveling bug hit Daisy in 1972 and so it was Daisy traveled to Ireland visiting all 26 counties. The following year she took a tour of the Holy Land. The tour included Greece, Israel, Italy and Spain. "The people everywhere on the tour were very kind and polite," remarks Daisy.

Daisy still has a garden and she sells strawberry and raspberry plants and raises chickens and geese. Daisy thinks that people should slow down and get to know each other better, and urges everyone to be open-minded and to try to get along with one another, and make this world a better place to live.

On September 1 of this year Channel Four News did a short story on Daisy. Everyone in Steamboat should be very proud of our Daisy of Strawberry Park.

"Some people didn't know how to fish and would bring all kinds of equipment. Some had deep sea gear and hooks two to three inches long and big heavy weights."

Daisy had most of her guests fish in the steams in Strawberry Park. "Fishing in the rivers and the lakes were never very good because the fish were "smarter", Daisy laughs twinkling her eyes, "The fish would take the hook but then they would spit it out."

In 1945, Mae moved to Denver and the Rushing Water Inn closed. Unfortunately Mae died leaving her 4½ year old daughter Rita for Daisy to raise. Besides raising Rita, Daisy worked at jobs around town, and the Perry Mansfield Camp during the summer. Along with the jobs she always had a garden to weed and vegetables to freeze and lots of canning.

A couple of years ago Daisy wrote a book called From Slavery to Affluence. The first part of the book was published in 1927 and was about the life of her husband who was a slave, fought in the Civil War, and became a homesteader in Nebraska. The second part of the book was published in 1967 and was titled "Have You No Shame". This is about Daisy's own life.

After writing the book the Ford Foundation made a movie and wanted Daisy in the movie telling about the life of her husband. The movie was called "Black Frontier" and in 1968 was presented on TV.

## I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN

BY

Daisy Anderson

I shall pass this way but once  
I'll do the best I can,  
By being a useful servant  
To my fellowman.

When I'm called upon to do my part,  
I will never say no,  
For I feel that it's my duty  
To help over the show.

When the show is over,  
After giving a helping hand,  
Within myself, I will know  
It will make me feel so grand.

When God has blessed one with a talent,  
Never hide it away--  
Be generous and helpful to your fellowman---  
Good will return to you some day.

I shall only pass this way but once  
So I'll do the best I can,  
By leaving my footprints upon the sand  
As a guiding path for my fellowman.

Special thanks to Caroleen Lewis  
for the typing.