WPA Alabama Writers Project
LIFE HISTORIES/STORIES
Hale County, #4

~~Microfilmed: 5-12-77~~
~~DHW~~

Obsolete
To be re-filmed

(1)

Hale County
Vera L. Henry

December 1. 1938

Story about: Fairy Ingram address of family:
Mr + Mrs James Otis Ingram
Greensboro Alabama

"The Ingram Family"
Taken December 1938

Hale County
Vera L. Henry

Fairy Ingram is the wife of James Otis Ingram and the mother of three lovely little girls, even if she did want the last one to be a boy, so bad. Her husband has a job as a foreman with a road construction company, therefore they live at one place for only a short time. Their parents live in Electric in Elmore County and Otis and Fairy are buying themselves a home on a forty-acre farm near Electric.

Fairy will be twenty-seven years old in the month of January 1939. She married when she was nineteen and in December before she was to graduate from high school the next spring. The principal talked to her begging her to wait at least until she finished that session of school, but she married any-way and maybe she has wished at times she had waited but no one has ever known it yet. And she seems so happy.

For the first two years after she married they rented rooms from her parents, living in the house with them, then they moved to their own home, while they are buying. and in a short time Otis started working with a building contractor and now for several years has been a carpenter for this road construction company of which he

he was made foreman a few months ago. He is now making thirty-five dollars a week which gives them a good living but they have had doctor bills and other extra expense with the arrival of the new baby girl who is only one month old.

Fairy has a colored girl to help her cook and do the house work. she says she does not need help always but with the new baby she needs one for awhile. Fairy gets up and cooks breakfast, because Otis goes to work so early and then Hattie, the colored girl, comes in time to give the children breakfast and get gone off to school. The rest of the morning is spent mostly in bathing, dressing, feeding the baby, for all little babies require quite a bit of attention, then Pattie, who is two and one half years old needs part of her mothers time too, although she waits on herself lots. we can hear her say often "Mamma, open door for me"; or "I want cool water" she never says she wants water its always cool water. and there are many other things to do for her. Then Fairy plans the meals and has three full meals every day for she says with Otis working and the children need them too, she is careful to have a balanced diet which of course includes plenty of vegetables

fruit and milk for the children.

Fairy is full of life and fun. young and pretty weighs one hundred and forty pounds But she takes her motherhood seriously, realize the importance of giving her children the right kind of start in life

Fairy and Otis are buying a car they have it almost paid for they are also making monthly payments on a Frigidere. They are now living in Hale County in Greensboro Alabama moved here September the first 1938 and on account of the baby has not been to church or Sunday School here yet but has always gone to church she is Baptist and while she lived at Electra always played the piano for services in her home church. She wants her children in church and Sunday School and June goes every Sunday now. and she intends to go as soon as she can.

Fairy was an Emfinger before she married both of her parents are living, they live on a farm near Electra, She has two brothers, one older than she ~~and~~ who is married and has two boys the other is younger and is not married, She has one sister, married and her husband has a job with the same road construction company that Otis works with.

Otis left school just before graduating from

High School also but both he and Fairy as most everyone else, want their children to have a little more education than they and they want them to have special training for whatever work they take up for life. which as they are so young have not decided on yet, but Fairy laughs and says sometimes she thinks Pattie will be a carpenter like her 'Daddy' as she wants a hammer and nails so often.

Fairy has a machine and does most of her sewing for she and the children she says with her three girls she will have to sew and have a good ironing board for girls will always have something to press. and she wants them to know how to do things for themselves.

At one time Fairy and Otis talked of letting Fairy take the children and go to their home to live said they believed they could live cheaper by letting him board and save the trouble of moving so often. But Otis had to go off on a job for about three weeks so left his family as Jurea was in school, and for such a short time And when he came back had fully decided not to do that said life was too short and he loved them so much could not stand to be separated from them and as long as possible was going to keep them with him.

Fairy loves flowers and intends to have many when she does go to her home to live, she wants a yard, garden, cow and chickens she wants to make a real home where she can have plenty of house room for her girls and friends but she does not want to live separate from her husband says the children need their "Daddy" and she needs him to help share the responsibility of their early training. She gets tired of being crowded but says when she can get two large rooms can do very well and she does not feel able to rent more than two rooms. She is an excellent housekeeper and with her children she is really kept busy.

Fairy does not vote now but did until she started moving around but says she is not as insistent as she was and has not paid her poll tax in several years now.