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## **“Adventures Of Little Miss Marker” Or “What Goes Around Comes Around”**

By Joyce Smith

*The John Williams Walker marker was first dedicated in 1966 on the east side of highway 231 beside a field in a lonely spot. Later it vanished and was greatly missed. Now it is being rededicated. I have had the honor of attending both of the dedications. David Robb has offered many suggestions as to where it was all those years in between.*

*The following is MY vision of the events or, as Paul Harvey always said, “The Rest of the Story.”*

In her first life, Little Miss Marker stood proudly waiting for guests to stop to see her. The sun blistered, the wind blew, the snow howled. She stood patiently beside the field, waiting and watching all the cars whizzing by. Many of them carried license plates from other states. “Where are they going? To work or to more exciting places?” she mused. “I’m tired and bored. I’ll go see the world.”

Umph, umph, umph! She struggled valiantly until her post snapped out of the concrete base and off she hopped on her one sturdy leg. At home word quickly spread that Little Miss Marker was missing. Where

would she be? They renamed her Little Miss ING Marker. (All southern ladies need a middle name.)

Little Miss ING hopped to the north, to the south, to the west, and to the east until she found her long lost cousin, Mr. Bell Factory Marker. They had a nice long chat and she invited him to join her on her adventure but he refused, happy in his own home territory. A little dog joined Little Miss ING Marker and they journeyed on. After a long time, she spotted a stripe on a road. She played the old-fashioned game of Hop Scotch, jumping forward and back, forward and back. She looked down at the road and noticed the words STATE LINE. On she went toward a big sign. "WELCOME TO TENNESSEE"

"Oh my, Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Alabama, anymore! I want to go home BUT we are LOST!" Discouraged and very tired, Little Miss ING lay down next to a pile of scrap metal. When she awoke, a kind man helped her up and said, "I'll help you find your home, dear. I'm sure your old friends miss you."

Many years passed while she reclined on a porch in Huntsville. Some people stopped to see her but she longed for the chance to stand up next to the highway again. It felt like an eternity. Finally, the opportunity came to do just that. Today, she has a new home where she will be able to greet people and reminisce with an old log cabin about the 'good old days'. She says she is through with the "Going Around and is now Coming Around". Her name has been changed from Little Miss ING Marker to Little Miss Happy Days

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Marker. She is through traveling and is NOT leaving ever again!

*Written and presented at the Rededication Ceremony of John William Walker marker by Joyce M. Smith, Member of the Huntsville/Madison County Historical Society.*

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About the Author:

Joice Smith is a local historian that has been associated with the Historical Society since the very early days. A frequent contributor, board member, and a resident of Huntsville.