“No News” retold by Connie Regan-Blake and Barbara Freeman

A certain Southern lady was returning home after recuperating in the mountains for three months. His friend, Georgeanne, met her at the station.

"Georgeanne, has there been any news while I've been away?"

"Oh no, there’s no news."

"No news? Surely, something must have occurred in my absence. I've been gone for most nearly three months, and I'm anxious for any little bit of news you may have."

"Well, since you mention it ...'course, it don't amount to much, but since you been away, your dog died."

"My dog ...died?"

"He ate some of the burnt horseflesh, and that's what killed the dog."

"Burnt horseflesh?"

"Well, after the fire cooled off, the dog ate some of the burnt horseflesh, and that's what killed the dog."

"Fire cooled off?"

"Well, the barn burned down, burned up all the cows and horses, and when the fire cooled down, the dog ate some of the horseflesh, and that's what killed the dog."

"My barn burned down! How did my barn burn down?"

"Oh, it was a spark from the house. Blew over, lit the roof of the barn, burned down the barn, burned up all the cows and horses, and when the fire cooled off, the dog ate some of the burnt horseflesh, and that's what killed the dog."
"A spark from the house?"

"Oh yes, now that's completely burned down."

"But, how did my house burn down?"

"It was the candle flame that lit the curtains, shot up the side of the wall, and burned down the house; a spark flew over on the roof of the barn, burned down the barn, burned up all the cows and horses, and when the fire cooled off, the dog ate some of the burnt horseflesh, and that's what killed the dog."

"Candles? I don't even allow candles in my house. How did candles get in the house?"

"Oh, they were around the coffin."

"Coffin? Who died?"

"Oh, now you needn't worry about that. Since you've been away, your mother-in-law died."

"Oh, my mother-in-law. What a pity. How in the world did she die?"

"Well, some folks say that it was the shock of hearing that your husband had run away with the choir leader. But other than that, there ain't been no news."