

WRECK OF THE OLD 97* (G. B. GRAYSON; HENRY WHITTER, 1924)

D G
Well they gave him his orders at Monroe Virginia

D A7
Saying Steve you're way behind time

D G D A7 D
This is not 38 it's old 97; you must put her into Danville on time**

Well, he turned around and said to his black greasy fireman
Just shovel in a little more coal
And when we cross this big White Mountain, we'll watch old 97 roll

It's a mighty rough road from Lynchburg to Danville
On a line on with a three-mile grade
It was on that grade that he lost his airbrakes you see what a jump he made

They were going down the grade making 90 miles an hour.
When his whistle broke into a scream.
He was found in the wreck with his hand on the throttle.
He was scalded to death by the steam

Then the telegram come to Washington city And this is how it read
The brave engineer that run old 97 he's a-laying in old Danville dead

Now all you ladies heed this warning
From this time now and learn
Never speak harsh words to your true loving husband
He may leave you and never return.

*****Old 97," was a Southern Railway train officially known as the Fast Mail. It ran from Washington DC to Atlanta, Georgia. On September 27, 1903 while enroute from Monroe, Virginia, to Spencer, North Carolina, the train derailed at Stillhouse Trestle near Danville, Virginia. The wreck inspired a famous railroad ballad, which was the focus of a convoluted copyright lawsuit but became seminal in the genre of country music. – www.wikipedia.org**

**** Locomotive 1102, a ten wheeler (4-6-0) engine built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, had rolled out of the factory in early 1903, less than a year before the wreck.– www.wikipedia.org**