

Oh, they gave him his orders in Monroe, Virginia, saying,
"Steve, you're way behind time
This is not 38, this is Old 97
You must put her into Spencer on time".

But it's a mighty rough road from Lynchburg to Danville
And from Lima it's on a three mile grade
It was on that grade that he lost his air brakes
See what a jump he made

Then the telegram come to Washington station
and this is how it read
Oh that brave engineer that run Old 97
He's a layin' in old Danville dead

So now all you ladies you better take a warnin'
From this time on and learn
Never speak harsh words to your true lovin' husband
He may leave you and never return



Old 97 was a Southern Railway train officially known as the Fast Mail. The train started its career on December, 1902, close to two years after Casey Jones's death. It ran from Washington DC to Atlanta, Georgia. On September 27, 1903 while en route 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. (Country music's first 1,000,000+ seller).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wreck_of_the_Old_97

WRECK OF THE OLD 97

Sheet music for the song "Wreck of the Old 97" featuring Acoustic Guitar, Ukulele, and Mandolin. The music is in 4/4 time and G major. The chords are G, C, G, D, G, C, G, D, G.

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

UKULELE

MANDOLIN