

The Wreck of the Old 97

Charles Noell, Fred Lewey and Whitter Work I-117
Recorded by Hank Snow

A D
They give him his orders at Monroe, Virginia,
A E7
Sayin', "Steve, you're way behind time
A D
This is not 38, but it's Old 97
A E7 A
You must put her in Spencer on time."

Then he tumbled and he said to his tired, greasy fireman
"Just shovel on a little more coal
And when we cross that White Oak Mountain
You can watch Old 97 roll."

Break

It's a mighty rough road from Lynchburg to Danville
In a line on a three-mile grade .
It was on that grade that he lost his air brakes
You see what a jump he made.

Break

He was goin' down 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'd been scalded to death by the steam.

Now ladies, you must take warning
From this time on and learn
Never speak harsh words to your true love or husband
He may leave you and never return.

Source: Hank Snow – The Wreck of the Old 97, 1971 RCA cxs 9009(e)