

The Wreck of the Old 97

Traditional

Key of A
4/4

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

Then turned and he said to his tired, greasy fireman,
"Shovel on a little more coal"
And when we cross the White Oak Mountain
You can watch Old Ninety Seven roll."

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

He was goin' down grade making ninety miles an hour
When his whistle broke into a scream
He was found in the wreck with his hand on the throttle
And was scalded to death by the steam.

And when a telegram comes from Washington Station
And this how it read
Oh that brave engineer that run old 97
He is lying in old Danville dead.

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