Along the Rusted Rails

Murray Little

The Spanish River derailment occurred on January 21, 1910, where the CPR Soo line crosses the Spanish River. Train #7, a westbound passenger express carrying 100 people derailed and crashed into the bridge, killing at least 43 passengers. The worst rail disaster in CPR history up to that point.

Intro: E A E

E **A** **E**
January twenty one, nineteen hundred and ten
B
Just past one in the afternoon
E **A**
An hour out of Sudbury heading for St. Paul
B **E**
The west bound express met it's doom.

Coming round the curve approaching the bridge
Smoke billows out of the stack
With a shudder, a rumble, a scream of steel
Car number four jumps the track.

Chorus

A **E**
Wildflowers grow along the rusted rails
B **E**
No wreath hangs ... from a cross
A **E**
Who remembers the day on the Spanish River Bridge
B **E**
When forty-three souls were lost?

Flips on its side slams into the bridge
One half bursts into flames
The other half tumbles to the river below
Pulling down the rest of the train

Time stands still, a fire ball climbs
Carried by the wind up to the sky
As the rail cars sink into the icy depths
Hear the mournful cries.

Chorus
Instrumental over verse

Conductor Tom Reynolds escaped the Dining car
Kicking out a window pane
In the icy cold water, through a hole in the roof
Pulled survivors from the train

On the bank of the river in the Pullman car
The injured and dying were lain
With a small tin of whiskey, strips of her clothes
Helen Lynall tended their pain.

Chorus
Tag
A **E**
Wild flowers grow along the rusted rails
B **E**
Where forty-three souls were lost
E A E

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