

"On February 11th [1936] he kissed my mother goodbye. She said Charlie do be carefull as she always did. He was driving the Locomotive 1641. The train was the Fla Special. The main driving rod became disconnected at the crosshead. The rod went back thru the boiler into the Fire box. His fireman was named Etheridge. The the fireman was blown back into the coal tender killed instantly. My father applied the brakes as he would under ordinary circumstances. Bringing the train to a gentle stop. There were about 1200 passengers on the train. He jumped and his pelvis was broken. He was scalded about two thirds of his body. He died in a hospital in Moncks Corner, S.C. Before he died he told the nurse about his family. His last words were Praise the Lord. The South Carolina State Legislature drew up a letter comending him for his actions in handling the train. Knowing Dad as I did he would have said I was just doing my job. Before he was 21 he had been in 32 of our states."