

Flatt And Scruggs "Ode To Billie Joe"

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It was the third of June, another sleepy dusty Delta day
I was out choppin' cotton and my brother was bailin'
hay
And at dinner time we stopped and walked back to the
house to eat
And mama hollered at the backdoor, "You all
remember to wipe your feet"

And then she said, "I got some news this morning from
Choctaw Wridge
Today Billie Joe Macallister jumped off the Tallahatchie
Bridge"
Papa said to mama as he passed around the black
eyed peas
"Billie Joe never had a lick of sense, pass the biscuits
please"

"There's five more acres in the lower forty I got to
plow"
And mama said, "It was a shame about Billie Joe
anyhow
Seems like nothing ever comes to no good upon
Choctaw Wridge
Now Billie Joe Macallister jumped off the Tallahatchie
Bridge"

Brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billie
Joe
Put a frog down my back at the Carroll County picture
show
And wasn't I talkin' to him after church last Sunday
night?

I'll have another piece of apple pie, you know it just
don't seem right

I saw him at sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Wridge
Now you tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the Tallahatchie
Bridge
Mama said to me, "Child what's happened to your
appetite?"
I've been cooking all morning and you haven't touched

a single bite

And nice young preacher brother Tailor dropped by
today
Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh, by
the way
Said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you upon
Choctaw Wridge
She and Billie Joe was throwin' something off the
Tallahatchie Bridge

Year's come and gone since we heard the news about
Billie Joe
Brother married Becky Thompson and they bought a
store in Tupelo
There was a virus goin' 'round, papa caught it and he
died last spring
Now mama doesn't seem to want to do much of
anything

And me I spent a lot of time pickin' flowers upon
Choctaw Wridge
And dropped 'em into the muddy water off the
Tallahatchie Bridge

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