

- D7 Ode to billy-Bgentry
1. It was the third of June, another sleepy, dusty Delta day,  
 D7  
 I was out choppin' cotton and my brother was balin' hay.  
 G  
 And at dinner time we stopped and walked back to the house to eat,  
 D7  
 And Mama hollered at the back door, "Y'all remember to wipe your feet!"  
 G  
 And then she said, "I got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge.  
 D7 C D7  
 • Today Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge."
- D7 D7  
 2. And Papa said to Mama as he passed around the blackeyed peas,  
 D7 D7  
 Oh, Billy Joe never had a lick of sense, pass the biscuits, please.  
 G  
 There's five more acres in the lower forty I've got to plough.  
 D7 D7  
 And Mama said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow.  
 G  
 Seems like nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge,  
 D7 C D7  
 • And now Billy Joe MacAllister's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge.
- D7 D7  
 3. And Brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billie Joe  
 D7 D7  
 Put a frog down my back at the Carroll County picture show.  
 G  
 And wasn't I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night?  
 D7 D7  
 I'll have another piece of apple pie, you know it don't seem right.  
 G  
 I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge,  
 D7 C D7  
 • And now you tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge
- D7 D7  
 4. And Mama said to me, "Child, what's happened to your appetite?  
 D7 D7  
 I've been cookin' all morning and you haven't touched a single bite.  
 G  
 That nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today,  
 D7 D7  
 Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday, oh, by the way,  
 G  
 He said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge,  
 D7 C D7  
 • And she and Billy Joe was throwing somethin' off the Tallahatchie Bridge
- D7 D7  
 5. A year has come gone since we heard the news 'bout Billy Joe,  
 D7 D7  
 And Brother married Becky Thompson, they bought a store in Tupelo.  
 G  
 There was a virus going 'round, Papa caught it and he died last Spring,  
 D7 D7  
 And now Mama doesn't seem to wanna do much of anything.  
 G  
 And me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choctaw Ridge,  
 D7 C D7  
 • And drop them into the muddy water off the Tallahatchie Bridge.