

JENNIFER PIERCE EYEN

The Lockmaster's Table

We caught a "floater" in the locks tonight.
Two weeks dead, maybe more...
Yep, caught up in the wickets he was.
Who was it Bill?
Well, they ain't sure.

The current's been strong
And the water's been warm —
Prob'ly some bum, he looked real bad.
Hand me some coffee, how many's that been?
Ah, that's about the fourth one we've had.

That all the potatoes?
Is the gravy all gone?
Yeah, old Lock 'leven's seen a lot go by.
Mind when that old ferry caught fire?
Now, I forget how many did die.

Remember last spring when we found that kid?
Yeah, a damn shame, he was twelve or about.
Hey Bill, do you remember his name?
Hell, I see 'em stuck
And I just fish 'em out.

My wife sent some pie tonight,
You guys want some?
It's pretty damn good.
Nah, I'm checkin' the wickets again.
Full moon last night, so I think I should.

Yep, we caught a "floater" in the locks tonight.
Two weeks dead, maybe more...
Who in the hell do you think it was?
Well, like they said,
They ain't sure.