

## Getting down to the Gritty

By DAVE HARTRANFT

Times Leader Graphics Director

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### Review



*(Excerpted from a May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1988 article by Dave Hartranft of the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader following a show at the F.M. Kirby Center featuring the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Abilene.)*

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Warming up the crowd was the local country rock band Abilene, which got the show rolling with "It's Gonna Be One Of Those Nights", a country swing tune, and "Way Down Yonder in The Bayou Country", a Cajun fiddle song featuring Joe Pacuska.

Throughout their 40-minute set, the band turned out old favorites such as "Hello, Mary Lou", Commander Cody's "Lost in the Ozone Again", and the Allman Brothers' "Ramblin' Man".

A rousing rendition of "Dueling Banjos" featuring Pacuska and Bob Bartoli, was a real show-stopper. The enthusiastic home-town fans raised the roof as the duo battled instrumentally with razor-sharp precision.

To the delight of the crowd, Abilene closed their show with the Charlie Daniels Band's southern rock classic, "The South's Gonna Do It Again".

The Dirt Band gave Abilene a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – inviting them to accompany them on the final song of the evening.

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