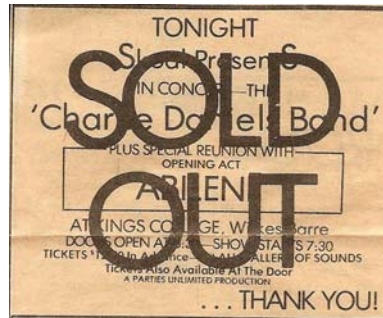


Charlie Daniels Defies Critics



(Excerpted from an article in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader following a March, 1984 show at King's College featuring the Charlie Daniels Band and Abilene.)

The Charlie Daniels Band and Abilene proved local critics wrong last Saturday.

The word about town had it that Parties Unlimited Production, the promoters of Saturday's concert at King's College, would have a hard time filling even half of the gymnasium. Rumor had it that Northeastern Pennsylvania audiences had forsaken their country rock ties for new wave and heavy metal. And rumor had it that the concert would be full of good ole boys and girls aching to bring down the roof.

How wrong the rumors were.

The crowd was a sell-out, all 3,200 seats filled. There was more denim and leather in that gymnasium than in all of Nashville and if any roofs were raised, they were raised with the non-stop applause, hoots and shouts of appreciative Wyoming Valley country-rockers welcoming back one of the finest local bands and one of the most famous national acts ever to play the east side of the Susquehanna.

Abilene, local boys reunited after a seven-month retirement, elicited a standing ovation following their one-hour warm-up set, replete with time-worn favorites from nightclub days. Too bad the acoustics were not better. Joe Pacuska's fiddle, clear and pronounced before smaller audiences, was sometimes lost in the translation from speakers to audience Saturday, but nonetheless honed to perfection. Still, the band, with Pacuska on fiddle and banjo, Jim Musto on drums, bassist Lee Calabro, guitarists Joe Wascavage and Bob Bartoli and Joe Andes on keyboards, seemed more up, energetic and together musically than at their farewell concert some several months ago at the Station.

Abilene proved a tough act for even Charlie Daniels to follow.
