

On stage with Stubblejumpski

By John Schmidt – Alberta Farm Writers Association

Three cheers for Steve Stubblejumpski.

He has revived a tradition at farm meetings which has practically disappeared over the last decade. The disappearance has been caused by the creeps of political correctness.

When I first started covering farm meetings the esteem of a speaker was based on how many jokes he could work into a dull topic. Speakers were expected to tell opening ‘stories’ or ‘jokes’ about stubble-jumpers. Shouts of racism and sexism put an end to this mark of excellence. Speakers today try to liven up speeches with overheads, slides or films. Their speeches can be pretty lifeless.

But now Steve Stubblejumpski has appeared on stage as agricultures first stand-up comic – a man after my own heart.

I first met him at Standard when Greg Hockaday, field man for Monsanto Canada Inc., brought him out of hiding to headline an information meeting.

Usually 15 or 20 will show up at such meetings. Steve pulled in 60 went for an hour. The wives came too, and they laughed loudest at his sexy sallies, such as his definition of GST: “Get Sex Tonight” – but the chance of getting it is 7%.

He admits if a farmer goes home and tells his wife a lot of racy stories “it’s because he had to hear old Steve Stubblejumpski, the Ukrainian who runs a mixed up farm with his wife Stella at Double Bumps”; shown on the

road map as Two Hills. He admits they aren’t very good farmers “because we took a soil test one time – and the soil failed.”

Steve and Stella own 10 brands, and two cows. All the rest died from being branded so often.

“I try out all of me new jokes on Stella,” he revealed. “I’ve been married to her for 27 years. Hell, you don’t get that for murder.

“We came from Yukon, Sask. Never heard of that town? It’s on the map as Yorkton; where there’s a Uke on every corner.

Saskatchewan is where Roy Romanov is Premier. He got elected because he promised the Ukrainians he put garlic under the Canadian Wheat Board.

Yuk Yuk Yuk.

“The voters were afraid to vote for any other party than the NDP because it could not bring back prosperity. Prosperity could bring jobs; jobs could bring back the kids from Alberta. Why spoil a good thing?”

Steve Stubblejumpski translates into Rob Saik of Red Deer, who used to be a fertilizer dealer at Two Hills. He goes on stand-up gigs about 70 times per year, and probably makes as much as the comedians at Yuk Yuk’s Club.

He bounds on stage with a fur hat with cucumbers under the flaps, grease stained overalls and mukluks and proclaims: If you are going to tell Ukrainian jokes, you gotta be of Ukrainian decent like me. If you can’t laugh, you can’t

farm. If I tell German jokes like ‘Oktoberfest lasts longer than a Ukrainian Wedding’, I’m likely to get the hook.”

It’s ok to tell American jokes, though, like “Montana is a state where men are men, and sheep are nervous” Or: “If Bill and Hilary were in a boat and it sank, who’d be saved?” – “The Country”.

Steve hopes A.I.D.S. will soon be eradicated. That’s “Agricultural Income Deficit Syndrome.”

Most French jokes are banned except: “Why does it take 4 Quebecois to screw in a light bulb?” “It takes on to screw in the bulb, and three to write a sad song about how much they miss the old one.”

The Hutterite contingent at the meeting all laughed because not only did they like the jokes, but they also won all the door prizes.

They all went home vowing to try out Steve’s new method of telling if the ground was warm enough in the spring to apply wild-oat killer: If you sit on the ground five minutes and your bare behind doesn’t freeze, it’s time.

A national phenomenon in Canada is that while the speakers quit telling jokes at farm meetings, people go to Yuk Yuk’s Club and hear the filthiest jokes ever. Likewise, the jokes at Just for Laughs Theatre in Montreal are filthy enough for the CBC to broadcast. The CBC should phone 1-877-34-STEVE and arrange to have Steve Stubblejumpski on Country Canada.