

of the viewers' votes received by each couple on the same night, and it adds these shares together. The couple with the lowest combined total is then eliminated from the show.

This process, which is conducted each week by independent auditors, is "fair" in that it does give equal weight to the judges' actual scores and the viewers' actual votes. It also greatly reduces (but doesn't eliminate entirely) the probability that a tie will occur. Nevertheless, we have all seen cases where excellent dancers in a technical sense were voted off the show because they didn't have a strong enough fan base to give them many viewers' votes, and cases where very poor dancers in a technical sense made the finals only because of strong support from the viewers. I'm not going to mention any names or throw stones here because I'm definitely in the "two-left feet" dance group (and even then at risk of elimination). I think the judges, being human and being focused more on the technical aspects of the dance, have some leeway to compensate for such issues, but the extent to which they use this ability will probably never be known. Okay, now that you fully understand the scoring nuances, you are ready to take that call from DWTS.

**Tower of Babel Puzzle:** Vy dosh eveboedy vit akhsent in movie spik Engleesh lik deesh? Translation: "Why does everybody with an accent in the movies speak English like this?" The answer is that Russian-speaking mobsters from the former Soviet Union seem to be the "go to" choice for casting bad guys in contemporary movies. But, aside from the movies, sooner or later most of us will find ourselves in a situation where we must try to communicate with someone who doesn't speak our language, even right here at home. In these circumstances, hand gestures, arm waving, head shaking, pantomime, charades and a few stray words of French, Spanish or the local dialect often get employed to assist with the exchange. I have also found that a friendly attitude and a big smile can help understanding in a big way.

Language proficiency is a challenge for many international travelers. I discovered the exchange that follows between an English-speaking traveler and a member of the hotel staff in a Far East hotel that was published in a journal called the *Far-East Economic Review*, which I picked up in Brunei years ago. It is called Rune-sore-bees (room service), and the exchange is between a room service member of the hotel staff (RS) and an English-speaking hotel guest (HG). See if you can follow along.

Room Service (RS): Morny, rune-sore-bees.

Hotel Guest (HG): Oh, sorry. I thought I dialed room service.

RS: Rye, rune-sore-bees. Morny. Djewish to odor sunteen?

HG: I'd like some bacon and eggs.

RS: Ow july then?

HG: What?

RS: Aches. Ow july then? Pry, boy, pooch...?

HG: Oh, the eggs! How do I like them? Sorry, scrambled please.

RS: Ow july thee baycome? Crease?

HG: Crisp will be fine.

RS: Okay, an santos?

HG: What?

RS: Santos, july santos?

HG: Hmm...I don't know, I don't think so.

RS: No? Judo one toes?

HG: Look, I really feel bad about this, but I just don't know what judo-one-toes means. Sorry.

## Ed Bearss Returns

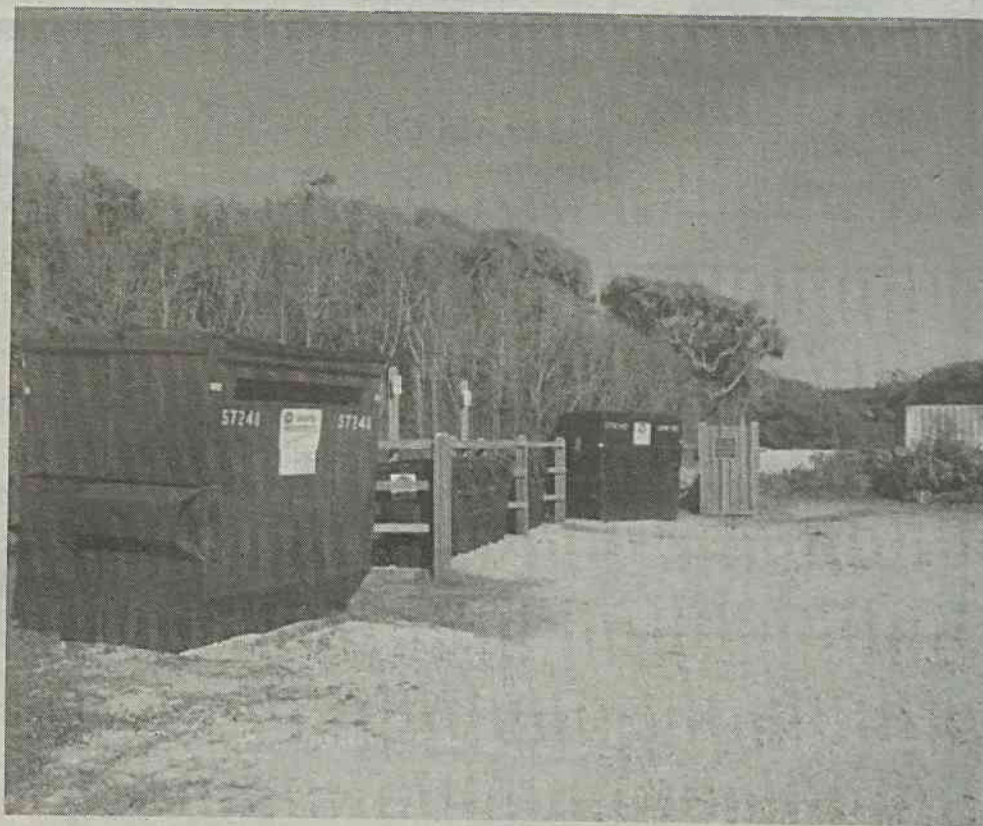
Ed Bearss, renowned historian and battlefield guide, will return to New Bern on Sunday, January 13, 2013, for his seventh program regarding history of the Civil War. This captivating program is entitled "Turning of the Tide: Gettysburg and Vicksburg." It is being sponsored by the New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Civil War Round Table and will be held at the Christ Church Ministry Center at 311 Middle Street, New Bern, beginning at 2 p.m.

For anyone who has experienced an Ed Bearss lecture, you know that he is a fascinating speaker and can bring a story to life as no other storyteller can. Mr. Bearss was often quoted in the Ken Burns Civil War documentary and has received numerous honors and awards for his dedication to educating and informing Americans about their military heritage. Approaching the great age of 90, he tours the country with his fascinating presentations about Civil War history. He routinely outpaces much younger guests in charging over rough terrain, recreating the color of famous infantry and cavalry attacks. Ed has a special place in his heart for New Bern, and we are honored to have him visit again.

Since his retirement, Ed has continued his association with the military history of the United States through writing books and magazine and newspaper articles, giving television and newspaper interviews, and guiding countless tours of our nation's battlefields. He is a strong advocate for the preservation of these sites. Donations are \$10.00 and can be purchased from the New Bern Historical Society at 638-8558. Proceeds will be used for preservation of the New Bern Civil War Battlefield. This is another program you won't want to miss!

## Recycling and Garbage Station

By Tom Powers



Known at town hall as Lot C, we have a Recycling and Garbage Station for Pine Knoll Shores. It is adjacent to the Fire Station on Route 58 and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are containers for glass, paper and cardboard recyclables, a dumpster for household garbage and an area for yard debris. Besides making it a lot easier for Pine Knoll Shores' weekenders to take care of their trash before heading home, it's also another way of encouraging recycling. Use it.