

# A Mark of Excellence

Volume 3, Issue 1

25 September 1999

Dear Mr. Hamill,  
I hope that this year's birthday finds you happy and well. You are a part of our lives and a part of our hearts. You've brought people from around the world together to share their love for you. We will be forever grateful for the friendships that you've created.  
May this year bring you joy! Happy birthday :)  
Love a Fellow September Child, Amanda

## (Sung to the Tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas")

On the first day of September, my true fan sent to me,  
A birthday greeting that was pretty loony.  
On the second day of September, my true fan sent to me,  
Two pairs of black silk boxers (or should they be briefs? Heehee),  
And a birthday greeting that was pretty loony.  
On the third day of September, my true fan sent to me,  
Three vintage cereal boxes,  
Two pairs of black silk boxers (or briefs?),  
And a birthday greeting that was pretty loony.  
(Ummm... Let's just skip to the "big finale," shall we?...)  
On the 25th day of September, my true fan sent to me,  
25 Wishes for a long and happy life,  
24 Hopes for a great year-to-come,  
23 Prayers for health and prosperity for you and your family,  
22 More wishes that all your dreams come true,  
21 "Circus Peanuts" (Well, the schmaltzy stuff had to end at some point. And besides, they were leftovers from last Halloween.),  
20 Speeches that start with "I'd like to thank the Academy," (you're going to need them),  
19 Rare, near-mint comic books,  
18 Puppets to replace the ones that were "lost," while filming SW,  
17 Board games (ditto above),  
16 Bowls of Frosted Cheerios,  
15 Rich financial backers for Black Pearl: The Movie,  
14 (Ummm... running out of ideas) Oh!

14 of Paul McCartney's "one-of-a-kind" guitars (but... how could there be 14 if they're one-of-a... oh, never mind...)  
13 (Uhhhh.... let's skip to five, shall we?)  
5 GOLDEN gumball machine  
RINGSSSSSS,  
4 (put your own wishes in here, Mark),  
3 vintage cereal boxes,  
2 pairs of black silk boxers (well, you know the question by now),  
And a birthday greeting that turned out reallllly loony.  
Happy Birthday, Mark!!! Love, Jeannie

Happy 48th Birthday, Mark! Now you, my husband (5/51) and I (12/50) are the same age. My 16 & 18 year old daughters tell me that pretty soon, I'll be able to get my free cup of coffee at Wal-Mart. Still, I feel 48 years young and I wish the same for you. On September 25th, have a great one - with many more to come.  
Love and God bless you, Dolores



Hi

Marky, I just hope you have a Happy Birthday and more happy ones to come. I love you so much!! You're the cutest and most talented actor I've loved! May you live long, and may the Force Be with you!! I love you. I hope to meet you someday.  
Your biggest fan, Christina

To Mark, wishing you so many more years of your amazingly productive life.  
Billy

Dear Mr. Hamill,  
As a drama student, I admire you as an actor. I think you are phenomenal at diversifying your characters, and I aspire to one day show the talent that you possess. My best wishes go out to you and your family, and I hope you have a wonderful birthday and many more.  
All my love, Kristen

Dear Mark,  
BIGGEST AND BEST BIRTHDAY WISHES TO YOU!! I truly wish this for you as you are my absoluuuuute favorite entertainer of all...may the weather be fine, the grass be trim, the flowers be blooming, the dishes be clean, the kids be good, the car run well, the smiles abound and the champagne flow smoothly!! I enjoy watching your shows/movies, etc. so much and you are really cool to all us fans out here. Perhaps I'll be lucky enough to meet you one day at a con or maybe at an espresso stand in Malibu!! Have a truly marvelous day, and may God bless you and your family!  
Most sincerely, Ashley

Happy Birthday!! My family and I wish to thank you for the years of enjoyment you have brought us by sharing your multi-dimensional talent as author, host, voice-over artist and actor of stage, screen, radio, and television. Hope you have a year filled with much love, health and happiness! ----Linda, John and Julie



Happy Birthday, Mark! We'd get you a cake, but there's no Big Bear near here!

## Notes from the Editors

It hardly seems possible that we're starting on the third year of running Mark's fan club. It has been, and continues to be, a wonderful learning experience. Neither of us had ever belonged to a fan club before— unless you count RALPH.

The fan club has come a long way in the past two years, some of it not as quickly as we would have liked. And, of course, there are changes and additions that we still want to make. As we said in our first Notes, 'change is good'.

The newest change to the web-site is the 'fan club members only' section is at last ready to go live. If you do have internet access, and would like to have password access to the area, e-mail your name (first and surname) + your e-mail address to:  
fcmember@markhamill.com

Once the site is live, you will be able to access all our back issues of 'A Mark of Excellence', and the full transcript of Mark's exclusive to the fan club's 'Black Pearl' interview. Excerpts from this interview are up on the website, in the 'Black Pearl' section.

Access to the fan club members-only section does come with some restrictions. It is a password-only area for a good reason: it is for fan club members only. Therefore, do not give the password to anyone. While this seems obvious, there were members that ignored the request concerning not posting the temporary web-site url, and either posted it themselves or did not take the posting down from their message boards or homepage. We were very fortunate the server host did not penalise us for excess data transfer.

It is restricted to fan club members only for a good reason: you are the ones helping pay for the website. Anything that is up in the fan club area, including but not limited to images, sound ways and information, may NOT be used anywhere else unless specific permission has been given. Failure to follow these simple restrictions will result in membership and access being cancelled.

That being said, we are asking for input from members— what would you like to have in the fan club section? E-mail:

fcmember@markhamill.com  
or snail your ideas to:  
PO Box 287  
Grand Blanc MI 48439 USA

In honour of Mark's birthday, a donation has been made to one of his favourite charities, Children Helping Poor and Homeless People. (CHPHP) To show your support for Mark, and to help contribute to a cause he supports, we are offering 'I'm Stuck on Mark

Hamill' badges/tons for but-sale.



Cost is \$1.35 US per badge, including postage. All profits will be collected and donated in honour of Mark's birthday next year. PO Box 287, Grand Blanc MI 48439. German members can send their orders to Tina Lebelt.

Currently up for auction on eBay is a Star Wars poster signed by Mark. With all proceeds going to CHPHP, bidding on this item ends on 27 September. He has also signed a child's t-shirt; the auction for that runs 4-10 October. <http://members.ebay.com/aboutme/>

## Blast From the Past

Petrocelli

”The Outsiders” (1975)

The owner of a drugstore, Andrew Sloan, had been murdered, and a few people are hunting a man down the street. (If you take a closer look at this opening scene you’ll spot a well-known face.)

The son of a farmer, Ron Fields (played by Mitch Vogel) had been arrested for murder. His mother goes to Anthony Petrocelli (Barry Newman) to ask for help because she knows her son had never done it – that he’s not guilty. They just stopped in Reno because her sick husband needed some medicine very badly. That’s why she asked Ron to get to the drugstore to get some. Tony decided to help them not thinking about a possible payment.

The district attorney believes that only Ron Fields can be the murder of Andrew Sloan – telling Tony his version of that evening: the owner of the petrol station across the street watched a man that tried to get into the closed drugstore and called the police. So Petrocelli starts his own investigations with the help of Pete (played by Albert Salmi) – his friend and assistant. He talks with Sloan’s widow and learned that it seems that Sloan didn’t have any enemies. Everybody describes him as a very kind man. He also learned something

more interesting from the owner of that petrol station: the owners of the properties in that street got offers to sell them because a company wants to build their new apartment blocks. All wanted to sell – except one: Andrew Sloan. Could that be the reason why Sloan had been killed?

Then Petrocelli wants to talk with Mr Mitchell owner of another store in that street but he only meets his son David (Mark Hamill). Again he heard only good things about Mr. Sloan. David tells him that he doesn’t know anything about what happened that evening and tells Tony where to find his father. At the barber’s he meets David’s father. He and the barbershop’s owner calling Sloan a fool – that he should have sold, too. And they’re happy that he’s dead because now they can take that offer to sell.

By know Pete had checked all the prescriptions and found something interesting. A man called, Harry Elden received his medication twice a week – only that he died six months ago. So why did Sloan use his name? Tony asks Pete to check if there’s someone who was or is addicted to drugs. We know Pete doing his job well.

So in the court he asks David’s father if he had heard about the ”Seltinger Hospital” in Flagstaff, Arizona – a drug detoxification center. His answer was yes. And he answers the next question whether his son

was a patient there with a yes, too – and that David had returned seven months ago. That was all Petrocelli wants to know – now he wants to talk with David. David explained that he’s clean now that he no longer needs drugs. But then Tony asks him to show him his arms but he refuses to do it. So Tony is able now to tell what really happened in that night: David still needs drugs; can’t live without them. He broke in to the drugstore knowing exactly where Mr Sloan had the drugs, in a special locker at the back of the store. That night Mr Sloan caught David but didn’t call the police. He wanted to help David and got the drugs for him. But then he realized that he can’t really help him that it would be the best if David would go back to the hospital. He refused to give him drugs again. That night David needed the drugs badly and broke in again. With a scissors, he tried to open the locker when Mr. Sloan came in. When he pushed David against the wall, he was mortally wounded by the scissors. It was never David’s intention to kill him. He hid against a shelf when Ron came in and found the dead body. He was afraid, backed off, and run. Shortly after him, David left the drugstore. If the owner of the petrol station had waited a bit longer he would have seen David, too coming out of the drugstore.

David repeated that it was not his intention to kill

*(Continued from page 3)*

Sloan. So Ron got his freedom back.

”The Gamblers”

The owner of a store, Al Benton, was murdered. Theresa Riviera goes to Tony Petrocelli because her brother had been arrested for the murder. She and her brother Manuel look after their two younger siblings because their parents are on a trip in Mexico.

So Tony talks with Manuel. He was running errands for Mr. Benton. That night he went back to the store because he had forgotten his notebook there which he needed for school. The back door was open and he went in. He found Al Benton dead on the floor. He hid when two other men were looking for Mr. Benton – then he ran away, afraid they would think he did it.

The district attorney tells Tony that they found Manuel’s finger prints on the knife – and that they had found the notebook he mentioned and that Manuel had an argument with Benton earlier that evening. They also found the cash register open and found over 300 dollars in Manuel’s car that he didn’t tell Tony.

The investigation starts. Tony and Pete find out that Al Benton was a bookie— that lots of people owe him lots of money – bet debts – for example, Mr. Melon owes \$5,000. When Tony meets him, he runs away thinking he was sent by Benton to force the money from him and to set him under pressure.

One evening Tony and his wife are at the Riviera’s house. Theresa invites them for dinner. Tony spotted some postcards from their parents but something isn’t right with them. He needs to talk with Manuel again – and not only about this.

Indeed, Manuel admits that he had money in his car because he doesn’t trust banks. He also admits that he had an argument that he wanted to quit his job because Benton had used him for his illegal business. Mr. Benton told him that he can’t quit because he is already a part of that business and set him under pressure. And he also tells Tony that his parents died in a car accident three months ago. He writes the cards so his younger siblings believe their parents are okay – he just can’t tell them the truth. After school he’s working to get enough money to pay all the bills. Now that he’s in jail he’s afraid that social workers could find out the truth about his parents and that they would put his siblings into an orphanage.

By now Pete found out that much more people owed Al Benton lots of money: James Wylie owed him around \$7,000 and a guy named Gomez around \$3,000. And there’s some still inexplicable break-ins they should check. So Pete should find Gomez while Tony wants to talk with James Wylie.

Tony doesn’t meet James Wylie just his son Dennis (Mark Hamill) working on a car trying to repair it. Tony offers the help of a mechanic but Dennis explained that he wouldn’t have the money. He tells Tony that his parents aren’t at home. He talks about his father’s addiction to betting. In his eyes, it’s an

illness that he wants to help his father overcome because he owes him that. When he was ill as a kid his father was at his side – he even lost his job back then. So he gives his father the money he gets working in a restaurant. With some disgust he tells Tony where he can find his father.

We know Pete won’t give up finding out all about tricky things – this time more about these break ins. The thief always took money never other things and he never took all the money – only a few hundreds dollars every time. Both men are starting to check Mr. Benton’s book and compared them with the break ins trying to find something that could bring them further to their goal. They find out that James Wylie had always paid his debts on the last day of the month – and the break-ins were always a few days earlier. Is that the solution?

In the court Tony wants to talk with James Wylie who admits getting money from his son. At this point he wants to talk with Dennis. He asked him how it can be possible to give his father that much money but only getting thirty-five dollars every week for his job. So Petrocelli can now start to explain what really happened that night: Dennis was making one of his break-ins – as always wearing gloves. It was easy for him to open that door, too after so many other break-ins he did before. He opened the cash registry with a large knife he found when Al Benton came in and run directly into the knife. It wasn’t Dennis’ intention to kill him.

For the records, there's another episode of that series called "Edge Of Evil" that should be interesting. No, it isn't another episode with Mark. Two other well-known actors – Harrison Ford and William Shatner – star in it..

Wizards (1977)

"Wizards" is an animation film by Ralph Bakshi who also made another animation film "Fritz, The Cat". You can call "Wizards" a fantasy film because of it's dark visions of the future.



10 million years ago the earth had

been destroyed by a nuclear disaster. The nuclear contamination let the human beings mutate into disgusting creatures. Their own will doesn't exist anymore. So it's easy for the dictator, Blackwolf, and his robots to rule them in his way. He has it in for his twin brother, Avatar, and his kingdom of fairies and dwarfs. But Blackwolf's troops lack motivation for a fight. So he's using newsreels from a pre-atomic time: old Nazi newsreels and films. And they bring him the success he needs. With such brain-washed forces he starts a war. But-as in every fairytale - the good defeats the evil by destroying the antediluvian film projector.

Mark's voice over work started a very long time ago – back in the early seventies with a Hanna-Barbera cartoon. But his role in "Wizards" is very small: just a few lines until his character – Sean, King of the mountain fairies - got shoot. Lots of you know his voice. But before Sean even



starts talking you'll recognize him as Mark's character. All of you who know the film will agree – it's the look of Sean – his big blue eyes and the blond hair – a real cute little fellow.

Just a warning at the end: you must have a soft spot for the films by Ralph Bakshi to like this film. Otherwise you would only watch these very few minutes with Sean. "Wizards" is an animation film for an adult audience. And it'll take a while till you reach the scene that is interesting for you.

This was the first film Mark worked on.



## Keep a Lookout For...

Mark is still hard avwork on the computer game version of 'The Black Pearl'. Look for it to hit the software shelves sometime in the fall of 2000!

If you've been channel-surfing, you may have discovered Mark has narrated a number of new shows currently being aired on The Learning Channel (TLC). I don't have a list of all the ones he's recently

done, so it's pretty much hit and miss 'finding' them. I've noticed that most of Mark's shows begin airing at 8.00 or 9.00 pm ET, and start repeating at 11.00 pm ET.

After running the pic of Mark's handprints in the last issue, a number of fan club members have contacted me, asking whether there is a campaign to get a 'Walk of Fame' star for Mark. At this time, no there

is not. I have been discussing this with the Hamills, and when there is news, it will be up on the web-site and in the newsletter.

Interest continues to be high for 'Outpost Omega', a project Mark has been working on, along with Bill Mumy.

And it looks as if a distributor has been found for 'Walking Across Egypt'!



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## The Last Word...

*A Mark of Excellence* is the quarterly newsletter of the **International Mark Hamill Fan Club**. Yearly dues are \$15 US, and include 4 consecutive issues of the newsletter, a membership card, and special mailings as appropriate. For more information, please send a SASE to:

**International Mark Hamill  
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PO Box 416  
E Amherst NY 14051**

Submissions, including photos or original artwork, are welcomed; final editing is the discretion of the editors. If you wish your photo or artwork returned, please enclose a sase, and attach your name/address on the back of your submission.

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