

NO SLOW MOTION FOR FILM MEN

Sizzling Pace Through the Suburbs

GIRL ACTRESS AS PIQUANT WITNESS



Above: Mr. C. Wilkinson, solicitor, who appeared for Miles Mander.

TWO authors—Miles Mander and John Orton—and one pretty little 17-year-old actress—Miss Mary Maguire—were given real life stories to tell and a part to play at the Traffic Court last week when Mander and Orton were charged with dangerous driving. It cost them nothing to get in to the performance, which lasted three days, but it cost a tidy sum to get out. The police pressed the offences strongly, for on one occasion in the chase the big police "bluebird" chaser was smashed up and on the other Mander drove past a public school, at school hour, at about 60 m.p.h. Miss Maguire, inside and outside the court, was the cynosure of many eyes and was an attractive figure. On one occasion she reproved the prosecuting sergeant

Above: Miles Mander, the film writer and producer, and at right, pretty Mary Maguire, star in the film and the police court case.

from the body of the court. On another she demonstrated how she could call out: "How are y' P-a-al!" Mander nearly escaped from the clutches of the police on the second charge against him, because, owing to a mistake, no summons had been served. Just as Mr. Farrington, S.M., was about to dismiss the police allegation he found that he could take the case. He did so, and fined Mander another £12—he was fined £12 on the first charge. Orton left the court a tenner lighter. The evidence was full of conflict and contradictions, and while some gave the speed of the cars at 25 m.p.h.—"just ambling along"—the police records went up to a sizzling 75 m.p.h.

MR. FARRINGTON believed the police, but reproved them for "foolish" driving in the chase. The parties in the case were well-known connections of the Page-wood Studios, where they have been filming "The Flying Doctor," with Mary Maguire playing opposite Charles Farrell in the "lead."

Miss Maguire explained that she and Farrell and Orton and Mander had been "on location" at Leufa on the day of the speeding. They were returning when the "bluebird" chased them. Farrell, however, was not in the party.

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When he was questioned and accused of travelling at 60, 65, and 70 m.p.h., Mander said:

"I am in a hurry to get back to Pagewood National Studios. I have got to be there at half-past six."

After he had been shown the damage to the police car, Mander said, "I am not questioning the speed, but you are not going to charge me with the damage to the police car, surely?"

Witness then went across to where Orton had pulled up and asked him why he had been travelling so fast and dangerously. He replied, "Mander is a friend of mine, and when passing Auburn a lady friend in his car waved

much; I did not know it was the police car," said Orton with a touch of sly humor one might expect from a screen writer.

"I saw the driver, he was a prosperous-looking chap. The next time I saw that car it whizzed past me on the centre bitumen part of the road."

"I called out 'How are you Pal,' when Miss Maguire waved to me as Mander passed. I was going at about 25 m.p.h. and could carry on a conversation. That was a sort of signal we always have. After the police car passed me I saw it go over on the right side of the road and I thought the driver was completely crazy, but it never entered my head that it was a police car."

"I thought a chap had a new car and was driving it along the road to test it. I was probably going at 40 m.p.h. after Miss Maguire waved to me."

"I am not a speed merchant," said witness in answer to his solicitor. "I was just ambling along."



CAPT. JOHN ORTON.

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It was only natural that the case would attract a fairly big gallery. Usually the public have few opportunities of seeing such people at close range—free, gratis, and all for nothing.

Mary Maguire, who just turned 17 the other day, first played in "Heritage," and this new film gives her her big chance. She was taken out of a convent in Brisbane to play "Heritage" and her story is romantic and thrilling. She is still building castles in the air. Her people keep the Bellevue Hotel in Brisbane; just an Irish publican's pretty little girl, now a rich film star.

Charles Farrell was brought from Hollywood to play lead in "The Flying Doctor." He is tall, bronzed, handsome. Everywhere he goes women admire him. "Oh, he's adorable!" they say. He is like a super life-saver with an American twang.

A DIRECTOR

Miles Mander was brought out from British-Gaumont to direct the filming of this Australian story. He is very much a man of the world, well-dressed, highly-intelligent, suave and polished. His iron grey hair is thinning, but he is still a very fascinating person, a film director, actor and author. Just before he left Australia on Wednesday—the day after the case ended—he said, "I feel sure it will be a picture which will be acclaimed. If it fails I am solely responsible, for I was given complete charge."

John Orton is a writer and film editor. He worked beside Mander. He adapted the story to film requirements.

The charges against Orton and Mander, alleged to have occurred on February 3, were taken together.

Sergeant Allan Cameron said that he was with Constables Hughes and Thorn in the "Bluebird" police car a few minutes after 6 o'clock on the night of the offence when Orton passed them in Parramatta-road, Auburn, travelling at a fairly high speed.

They followed him through the shopping centre, and he was travelling at 50 miles per hour.

Just then Mander passed the "Bluebird" at a very high speed. He also passed Orton's car, and a lady in Mander's car waved her hand to Orton's party as they travelled past.

Orton then accelerated, and both crossed over John-street, Lidcombe, at 60 m.p.h. Mander had accelerated to 65 and then 70 m.p.h. with the police car in close pursuit.

When approaching Underwood-street, Homebush, declared Sergeant Cameron, Mander suddenly applied his brakes and swerved sharply to the right.

The police car, which was then about two and a half lengths behind Mander, had to swerve sharply too, and it nearly turned over. The police car struck the kerb and was badly damaged.

For about a mile of the chase the police siren was shrieking a summons to the fugitive driver.

About this time Orton passed and witness waved to him to stop. He

went on, but returned a couple of minutes later.

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CHARLES FARRELL, leading man in "The Flying Doctor," whose leading lady is Mary Maguire. Miss Maguire's appearance during the case added piquancy to the proceedings.

to us and I thought he meant me to hurry up. We have all been to Leura for the day, and we are on our way back. I heard your siren blowing, and I said to my friend, 'Mander is in for it all right, he is going far too fast. They'll catch him all right.'"

The sergeant said that they had to make a third line of traffic with Mander's car at the time of the accident.

When he approached Mander he asked him how many drinks he had had that day and Mander replied, "I have had a few drinks; what has that got to do with you?"

Witness could not smell liquor on him, but his eyes were flushed and red, and he appeared to be a man who had had some liquor.

Sergeant Burgess, of Concord, said that he was near the Horse and Jockey Hotel at Homebush, on the night of the offence. He heard the police siren, and looking around saw three vehicles abreast approaching

him, and then he saw the police car come around from the rear, come abreast, and then the accident occurred.

Constable Leslie John Hughes said that Mander was travelling at "a terrific speed" when he passed the "bluebird."

John Overton Cone Orton, screen writer, said that he was a captain in the Regular Reserve Army. He was a careful driver. On this particular day he had Messrs. Sinclair and Eustace with him. They were travelling at about 25 m.p.h. when Mander's car passed them.

"As I came along the road I saw a big car which I admired very

much; I did not know it was the police car," said Orton with a touch of sly humor one might expect from a screen writer.

"I saw the driver, he was a prosperous-looking chap. The next time I saw that car it whizzed past me on the centre bitumen part of the road.

"I called out 'How are you Pal,' when Miss Maguire waved to me as Mander passed. I was going at about 25 m.p.h. and could carry on a conversation. That was a sort of signal we always have. After the police car passed me I saw it go over on the right side of the road and I thought the driver was completely crazy, but it never entered my head that it was a police car.

"I thought a chap had a new car and was driving it along the road to test it. I was probably going at 40 m.p.h. after Miss Maguire waved to me.

"I am not a speed merchant," said witness in answer to his solicitor. "I was just ambling along."

Describing himself as an author and actor, Miles Mander said that he had had a motor cycle when he was thirteen years of age, and that he owned his first motor car when he was 16 years of age.

He was the third person in England to own an aeroplane, so that he knew something of speed and judgment.

On the day in question he was driving along Parramatta-road with Miss Maguire, and when he passed Orton he was travelling at about 40 m.p.h.

Mander said he was travelling on his right side at Homebush when the driver of a sulky held out his whip as a signal that he was about to turn and witness had to swerve sharply to the right.

He heard a skidding of tyres behind him and saw a big car against the kerb with a couple of policemen in the back.

He did not know that the police were chasing him and had not heard the siren.

"When I was asked how many drinks I had," proceeded Mander, "I said, 'Several,' or 'Plenty.' I said 'Plenty' because I don't like being spoken to like that. I had not had anything alcoholic that day. I do not touch anything alcoholic.

"I had plenty of ginger beer to drink. I usually drink ginger beer. I have not had an alcoholic drink for 20 years."

Donald Sinclair, of Kirribilli-street, Kirribilli, a ladies' hairdresser, who was in Orton's car, described how Miss Maguire called out, "Howdy, P-a-a-ii!" as she passed.

The machine he was in was travelling at between 25 and 28 m.p.h., and Mander's car passed them doing five or ten m.p.h. more than that.

"Then another car, a big car, passed, going very fast. We remarked what a nice car it was. After Mander's car

passed us we accelerated slightly up to about 35 m.p.h. That would be our fastest speed. I periodically looked at the speedometer."

In answer to Sergeant Johnson (prosecuting), witness said that he was not asleep at the time. What he had said was that he had been dozing.

Those in the court became more alert when Miss Maguire's name was called. She had been in the precincts of the court for several days.

She said that her full name was Helene Theresa Maguire, and that she lived in Manning-road, Double Bay.

She remembered passing Orton's car and calling out, "How are y', Pal." She gave a sweet indication to the magistrate, Mr. Farrington, of how she waves and calls, "How are y', Pal."

It was very expressive, as she rolls her eyes and displays a flashing row of teeth between full lips.

When they passed Orton's car they were travelling at about 38 m.p.h., and they did not alter their speed after that because she looked at the speedometer now and again.

The first time she knew that the



CAPT. JOHN ORTON.

police car was in the vicinity, she said with a smile, was when it was up against a post. It had drawn opposite to them when she first saw it.

To Sergeant Johnson: It would surprise me very much to know that the police car did not hit a post at all.

Continuing, Miss Maguire revealed one of the secrets of motor salesmanship.

She said that they made the speedometers register much faster so that they could get a better sale.

Mr. Farrington said that there had been the most extraordinary contradiction of evidence in this case.

It had been suggested that the police had had to justify the accident which had happened to their car, and had had to fabricate evidence so as to support their official report regarding the accident.

He dismissed that submission entirely and believed the story as told by the police. He fined Orton £10 and Mander £12.

Mr. Farrington refused to order Mander to pay for the damage to the police car. It was a foolish action for the police to make a fourth line of traffic approaching a shopping centre, he said.

Those cases disposed of, Mander was thereupon charged with a similar offence on March 10 at 8.45 a.m., when he was accused of travelling along Liverpool-road through Chullora, Bankstown, Lansvale, Cabramatta and Liverpool at 50, 60, 65, 70, and 75 m.p.h.

He went past a public school while there were a large number of children in the vicinity at 60 and 65 m.p.h., it was alleged.

Mr. Wilkinson (for Mander) pleaded guilty. He said that his client had to leave Australia on the following day and, therefore, had no option but to plead guilty.

Mr. Farrington: I can't take the case, the summons

has not been served. Mr. Wilkinson received this remark with evident satisfaction, while the police were filled with consternation.

Sergeant Johnson: He has been before the court on this charge.

Mr. Wilkinson (smiling): That doesn't matter. He is not properly before the court.

Mr. Farrington: I can't take any further action, despite the fact that he has pleaded guilty. Oh, just a moment. I see here that he pleaded to the charge on the thirtieth and was remanded. So, he has appeared before the court. He has been charged. I will proceed.

Sergeant Johnson was explaining that at the time of the offence numbers of school children were about.

Miss Maguire (from the body of the court): No, no! We did not pass one child on the road.

Mr. Farrington (crushing): It is ridiculous to say that no children were about at fifteen minutes to nine. It is school hour.

Mander was fined another £12.

Girl's Evidence