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BORN RECKLESS

(All Dialog)

Fox production and release. Featuring Edmund Lowe. Directed by John Ford. Based on "Louis Beretti" by Don Clarke. Cameraman, Lew Schneiderman. At Roxy, New York, week June 6. Running time, 73 mins.

Louis Beretti.....Edmund Lowe
Joan Sheldon.....Catherine Dale Owen
Bill O'Brien.....Lee Tracy
Rosa Beretti.....Marguerite Churchill
Big Shot.....Warren Hymer
Good News Brophy.....William Harrigan
Frank Sheldon.....Frank Albertson
Bugs.....Eddie Gribbon
Ritzzy Reilly.....Paul Page
Joe Bergman.....Ben Bard
Fingy Moscovitz.....Mike Dunlin
Pa Beretti.....Paul Porcasi
Needle Beer Grogan.....Joe Brown
District Attorney Cardigan....Roy Stewart
Ma Beretti.....Ferike Horos
The Duke.....Pat Somerset

Only fair. Story as brought to the screen is episodic, fragmentary, given frequently to abrupt and interest-shattering transitions of time and locale. It gets pretty tiresome before it's over although some belly laughs in the earlier stretches help a lot.

Donald Henderson Clarke, press agent for Metro, wrote the novel from which a singularly dull and sprawling scenario was made. The scenario writer may have been afraid of the book story, which was pretty rough and tough. Fox originally intended the yarn for Paul Muni. It's quite possible that the script got kicked around the lot a la "Glorifying the American Girl" with the result it finally came out as beef stew.

It's an open question if Edmund Lowe isn't miscast. Certainly he doesn't look like an Italian gangster-bootlegger. He does well enough but his name rather than his performance will be the chief box office asset of the film. Lowe has some popularity now and it may be useful if it proves itself with this one.

Complete absence of love interest is another good reason for the nar-

rative growing sluggishly complicated, with the endless doings of gangsters never very picturesque save in the case of Warren Hymer.

Plenty of action but with very little relationship between one scene and the next. It's all pretty mechanical and stiff. *Land.*