

Reed Hadley

Born to an oil well driller in Petrolia, Texas in 1911, Reed Hadley (born Reed Herring) relocated early on to Buffalo, NY, where he was involved in the local theater community. After some early activity on the New York stage, he shifted his base to California where he worked days as a department store floorwalker and evenings picking up incidental work in radio. In the short span between 1939 and 1942, Hadley made his first significant impacts, first in film as the star of the serial Zorro's Fighting Legion (1939) and soon thereafter as the original lead in The Adventures of Red Ryder (1942). During the 1940s, Hadley frequently played in law enforcement roles and his authoritative voice also made him a narrator of choice for real-life drama films such as The House on 92nd Street (1945) and Call Northside 777 (1947).

Hadley shifted his attention to television in the 1950s, with a continued concentration in hard-nosed good-guy roles. From 1950-53 he starred in the popular series Racket Squad and played a similar part in the show Public Defender (1954). With the conclusion of that series, Hadley's days as a leading man drew to a close, although he had a variety of bit parts in a number of TV series episodes and occasional films over the next two decades. Hadley died of a heart attack on December 11, 1974 in Los Angeles.