Alameda Radio a long time ago…

(An archivist’s note by Bart Lee, K6VK)

In the CHRS Archives we preserve a balloon-envelope radio tube with a label from an Alameda shop: Frank's Radio on Park Street (around the corner from CHRS RadioCentral).
Alameda had a thriving retail radio business. The City Yellow pages for 1941 appear below, with a dealer ad for Stromberg Carlson, a high-end receiver.

Radio.

Bruce’s Radio Shop 586 Castro . . . . Hayward-437
Hauschildt Music Co 1090 B . . . . Hayward-1510-W
Hayward Battery Co 980 A . . . . Hayward-206
Hayward Radio Service 505 Main . . Hayward-366
Ravano J B 1010 A . . . . . . . Hayward-1552

STROMBERG-CARLSON RADIOS

Radios whose prestige justifies the slogan “There is nothing finer than a Stromberg-Carlson.” See one of the following authorized Stromberg-Carlson dealers before you buy.

"WHERE TO BUY IT"

AUTHORIZED DEALERS

Howard Radio & Electrical Shop
1410 Park Alameda
(Toll) call “Operator” for ALameda-0999

Vieux Brothers Main . . . . . . . . . . . Niles-50
Wilder R M 1062½ B . . . . . . . . . . . . Hayward-77

On the other end of the scale, Alameda before World War Two hosted some of the biggest radio antennas anywhere. They
did radio direction finding for Pan Am. (See www.SoWP.org for the story).

Clipper with Alameda Adcock Antennas; AWA screenshot

The Adcock arrays were very big antennas for HF (high frequencies, the primary wavelengths for aircraft at the time). In Alameda they would have stood at least as tall as the iconic shipping cranes do now. A still (above) from the AWA video shows the antennas and a Clipper.

(de K6VK) ##