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## Smile, Judy! (1960)

American Dental Association

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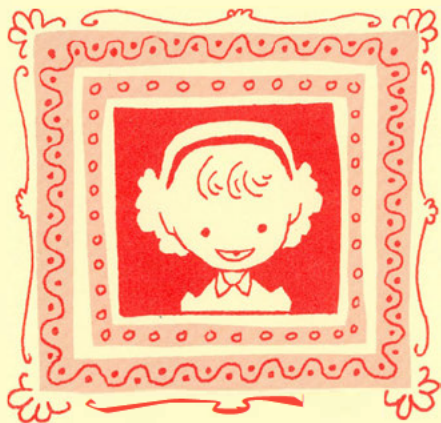
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**SMILE, JUDY!**





**S**EVEN-YEAR-OLD JUDY didn't mind posing whenever her father wanted to take her picture. She grinned cheerfully, not in the least concerned about her missing front tooth. After all, every other child in her class also had a missing tooth or two.

But it wasn't just a front tooth that Judy lacked. While it didn't show

on the snapshot, a molar was missing too. Judy had been pretty concerned about that molar the night it began aching. Once it had been removed, she had forgotten about it. So had her parents.

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**S**IX YEARS LATER Judy burst into tears when her father, focussing his camera on her, said, "Smile, Judy!"

Judy no longer smiled because she didn't want anyone to see her teeth. They were irregular, crowded out of position, "crooked."

Orthodontic treatment could restore the appearance of Judy's teeth and her smile, the dentist said. But it was too bad. There are several causes of malocclusion, but in Judy's case most of the problem probably could have been prevented.

It was that prematurely lost molar, he explained. Once it was gone, the adjoining teeth began drifting into the space. Then, when the time came for the permanent bicuspid to erupt, there was no room for it. Finally, many of the teeth were pushed out of position.

A space maintainer would have held the space so that the bicuspid could have erupted in its normal position. Then Judy would not have felt that she had to stop smiling.



**AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

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