

#DM2002-26

“HISTORY OF ORTHODONTICS”

CROOKED TEETH HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM SINCE THE CAVEMAN, AND EFFORTS TO STRAIGHTEN TEETH DATE BACK TO 1000 BC.

DURING THE MID TO LATE 1800'S, ORTHODONTICS EMERGED AS A SCIENCE. ADVANCEMENTS WERE MADE IN REPLACING NATURAL TEETH WITH ARTIFICIAL ONES. ALSO, PEOPLE BEGAN TO DISCOVER THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT ONLY STRAIGHT TEETH, BUT ALSO OF A PROPER BITE.

BY THE 1900'S, A JOURNAL FOR ORTHODONTICS BEGAN TO BE PUBLISHED. AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED, DENTIST'S DISCOVERED THAT BONE GROWTH AND TOOTH ERUPTION IN THE MOUTH COULD BE ALTERED TO PREVENT AN IMPROPER BITE AND INCORRECT TOOTH ALIGNMENT

TODAY, ORTHODONTICS USES EXTERNAL APPLIANCES TO HELP ACHIEVE CORRECT TOOTH ALIGNMENT. MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES TO ADVANCE AND APPLIANCES ARE BECOMING LIGHTER, MORE COMFORTABLE, AND LESS NOTICEABLE.

FOR THE ADA DENTAL MINUTE, I'M DR. MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL.