You remember it well? Probably, you don't

Your earliest memory: clutching your mother's hand on the first day of school. Or spilling chocolate ice cream all over your best party outfit.

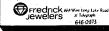
Vivid as they seem, most early memories are not autoblographical truths at all, according to University of Michigan psychologist Martin Mayman, Rather they are important fantasies which express the way a person feels about himself and his relationships with others.

"Early memories are selected — unconsciously—to conform with ingrained images of one's own character structure." Prof. Mayman explains. "Thus, one may slift through the stories a person itels about himself and extract the interpressonal themes which define a person's self-image and his conform which is a person it is about himself and extract the interpressonal themes which define a person's self-image and his character structure." Prof. Image and his character structure, formation probably, follows much the same course, the U-M psychologist says, from hearing or thinking about an event, to visualizing it in one's mind's eye, and finally to investing that image with a feeling of actuality and "menes" that makes it seem real.

"Once that last step is taken, it is difficult for



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most people to believe subsequently that their own early memories really derive from stories, images or fantasies as much as they do from real experiences."

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the Bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the Bureau.

SUMMER-PROGRAM SUPERVISORS — A knowledge of sports activities as well as arts and arts combined with a liking of children from all backgrounds are the qualifications needed to be a summer-program supervisor for the Boniface Community Action Corporation in Detroit. Volunteers age 21 or older are asked to commit afternoons for 10 weeks for this role as supervisor or assistant and the summer training of the program of the summer training and the summer training

supervisor.

FAMILY AIDES — Family Focus in Birmingham has openings for family aides to work as a "friend" to a family. Volunteers will share homemaking and child-rearing tasks as well as provide information about resources available. Persons age 21 and older are asked to commit to four hours per week for at least eight months. Extensive training starts shortly.

ACTIVITIES AIDE — You can have a good time while getting to know older individuals as an activities aide at the Hilton Convalescent Home in Ferndale. Volunteers age 18 and older who are able to commit three hours per week can become involved in visiting patients, conducting activity programs and transporting patients.

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Ior Personality Assessment.

Mayman was president of the Society in 1966-67.

Early memories almost always occur as a scene
one imagines visually, Mayman notes. "In more
than half of all early memories, the person sees
himself as a little child as if he, the child, were a
separate person and he, the observer, were looking
on from some point away from the center of action.

Often the scene is viewed from above or from outside a window looking in.

"SURELY THE SCENE was never experienced' that way in actuality. The memory is a reconstruction of a real or a fantasized event rather than the recxperiencing of a living event. From the way the person describing the memory often looks down on the event, we can see that he vissualizes the setting as it would seem to him at an older age, or even as an adult."

as it would seem to him at an older age, or even as an adult."
Mayman uses a wide range of tests to produce insights as to how a client approaches problems and how he attempts to solve them. "It doesn't mater to someth whether the memory being described is happy, embarrassing or painful. What matters is a consistent of the material of the solution of the solution

event.
"If we were to state our case in the extreme,"
Mayman says, "we would describe all early memories not as factual reports but personal myths.— as
inventions which may have little or no relevance to actual events but great relevance to the way a per-son now experiences current events."

memories can provide a screen on whic present-day psychological experiences.

presencingly psychological experiences.

Mayman will be honored for his nearly four decades of research and teaching in clinical diagnosis
and such projective techniques as the early menries test and the Rotschack ink blot test at the 1931
annual meeting of the American Psychological asociation (APA) this August. He will receive the
Distinguished Contribution Award from the Society
for Personality Assessment.

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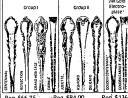
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