Belief, It's Wonderful

THE 2ND OF MAY— and that is not unusually the time for pigskin parties, but Virginia Tech held its football banquet Thursday night. It was no ordinary party.

It was a hot affair, literally and figuratively. One more than 1,200 people were present at the Civic Center, with Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant the chief speaker. Bryant has an easy way of personifying and evangelizing. Bryant was the lone commentator of the night for the first time and showed a decided feeling with that belief that they were obvious to the very warm for May weather.

They were 1,200 Tug "You gotta Believe" McCraes, those boys from the Tech who have never heard of a football team in a belief of "Tech Territory."

George E. Laver, Tech's 24-year-old new president who looks all 23, began the summy review with remarks about the Goldies' "significant spring practice."

R. M. "Mac" McEvoy, Athletic Director of Virginia Tech as an athlete more than 60 years ago, was the master of ceremonies and gave a good account of the Tech football team. Coaching Coach Jimmy Shreve.

Jimmy Shreve, the Bear of football coaches, was, McEvoy said, the greatest coach in the game, a national celebrity and said it is given up to say any more. It was fitting, then, McEvoy said, that a sketch of the famed Alabama coach should be on the program cover.

"He made us feel that everyone (the skit of Shreve) is Our Man," McCrae shouted, "and he'll never take second place again." Bryant was then introduced and given an account of his coach a smirking and fervent ovation. How they love Jimmy Shreve in Alabama.

Ehrlich Dr. Laver's remarks about the "significant spring practice," said, "I am eagerly and unusually looking to next fall."

"A football season," Sharpe said, "lasts 11 weeks— 12 weeks for Tech—but 11 weeks for all. Tech is always in post-season bowls, "and 12 weeks for us from now on."

That brought down the perryhouse of course, Not a soul ahailed. "We knew," said a Tech-bred fan, "Thbelieved the Goldies would make it a bowl season at last.

The Moseley Awards

SHARPE INTRODUCED THE Tech players — the 1074 seniors (only 13), the rising seniors, juniors and sophomores, and then invited them to come forward to receive their awards.

There were awards for the outstanding defensive and offensive linemen, halfback, center, running back George Brackin and lineman Blair Basker; the defensive backfield, Crudup and McDuffie; the burner, McCarter and Tom Bensley, the latter two having been graded equally by the coaching staff. The Tech announced the new awards at Virginia Tech — the Frank O. Moseley Awards, named in honor of Tech's athletic director and a Tech alumnus. The Moseley Awards, said, were leadership awards to go to the offensive and defensive ends.

"The Moseley Awards," Sharpe said, "will be the granddaddy of all Tech awards.

The first Moseley Awards went to Tony Hough, an theleader of the offensive squad, and to Billy Hood, offensive leader. Sharpe, who was a Tech alumnus and assistant coach, introduced the Bear as "the coach and man I know to do it."

Bryant was greeted by the Tech crowd as if he were a Hokie hero. "This is the greatest night of my life," Bryant said to other Tech people. "After all," he said, "I've been on your side. It is not a surprise. I know everybody. (Thank you, Moseley)." Jerry Clinardie and new Jimmy. I feel real close to VPI."

'Bama's Five Commandments

THERE WERE THE Bama stories, many of them on The Bear, and told almost hourly and without end. The Bear was able to speak at a large and prestigious affair, only inoffensively he was to wish Bob Hope the all the better for the lecture.

The Bear following his lecture was presented with a pig in the beauty parlour.

And there were stories about Fordice, Ala., where he grew up. To Bear, the original "poor country boy" among football coaches, tall 6'4, Fordice is a crossroads town of some 200-300. Actually Fordice is a town of nearly 5,000 population. But never mind, "there is Fordice, the main occupation is growing rats and the main regeneration is washing paintoin dry."

After pleasing his audience with funny goofies, Bryant returned to his sermon and went on to peak directly to the Virginia Tech squad and indirectly to the Tech Football, he said,

"In football, and in life, you must learn to cums that If you're going to be a leader, you have to be big and make plans to reach them. You don't achieve by accident; you plan for it and you don't leave it unaccomplished.

You don't succeed by yourself. No one can do anything alone. You must be a team leader. You must lead the yourself. You must lead yourself. I don't know how to define a leader, but he doesn't say no, 'I can do it.'"

"Let's get to it,

Bryant said what works one place does not necessarily work another place. He acknowledged what he said on behalf of Alabama's and Bryant's five commandments for football success:

(1) "Prepare yourself. (2) Give your best (and the taking of pride in it) (4) ( Fight not fasting, but fighting against the odd) (4) Teamwork."

"At Alabama, all they add up to something intangible."

Remakable feat of the Bear of coaches. Forty-five minutes after the benediction had been pronounced over Tech's revival of belief, he was still seated on the dais, personally autographing programs and copies of his book, THE BEAR, brought along for that purpose by Tech fans.