

# A. H. (Sandy) Graham

Democratic Candidate For Governor

By C. A. PAUL

(Editor's Note: This is the first of four articles dealing with the personalities of the four democratic candidates for North Carolina's governorship. The second, dealing with Clyde R. Hoey, will appear in The Dispatch tomorrow, to be followed on successive days by articles about Ralph W. McDonald and John A. McRae.)



A. H. GRAHAM.

Lieutenant-Governor Alexander Hawkins Graham is known as Sandy to his intimates and to the people of the state at large, a nickname those who have seen him only as president of the State senate are at a loss to understand because of his dignity. Away from the senate chamber, however, Sandy can unbend, and does. He became a candidate for the governorship on the last night of the 1935 legislative session, announcing his candidacy at the senate "love feast."

He was born August 9, 1890, in Hillsboro, Orange county, and has lived there all his life, except for intervals when he was attending out-of-state schools and serving overseas during the World War. He is the son of Major John W. Graham, who was born in Lincoln, and Maggie Bailey Graham, of Florida.

Public schools were not always as good as they are now, so Sandy was sent to the Hearst school, a grammar school conducted by the granddaughters of Alexander Wilson, who was widely known in the state because of the school for boys which he maintained for many years. After that Sandy went to Alexandria, Va., to attend Episcopal high school, where he graduated to return to North Carolina to become a student at the State university. He studied law there and, later, at Harvard Law School, and has an A. B. degree from Carolina.

**To War in 1917**  
When the war came in 1917 Sandy joined the army and was commissioned a second lieutenant at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. Shortly thereafter, on August 28, 1917, he was married to Miss Kathleen Long, of Graham, N. C. Later "Shavetail" Graham became First Lieutenant Graham and, before the war ended, Captain Graham. He was a member of the 81st division. Like several of his forbears and kinsmen, Sandy is no stranger to public office. He was elected from Orange

county to the lower house of the legislature five successive times, serving in the sessions of 1921-23-25-27-29. He was elected speaker of the 1929 house and in 1932 was elected lieutenant-governor, an office which he now holds. As lieutenant-governor he presides over the state senate and is a member of the budget commission. Sandy and Mrs. Graham have two children, both boys. They are Alexander Hawkins Graham, Jr., 17, a student at Carolina where he, like his father, is known as Sandy. Sandy, the younger, graduated from the Hillsboro high school at 14, the youngest student to ever complete the course there. The younger son, John Washington Graham, is 12 and is attending public school in Hillsboro. Mrs. Graham, like Sandy, comes from a family old in the annals of North Carolina, and the name of Long is well-known in middle North Carolina.

Sandy is a member of the American Legion, the 40 and 8, Junior Order United American Mechanics, and the Hillsboro Lions club. He and Mrs. Graham and their sons are members of the Hillsboro Episcopal church. He has followed but one occupation, practice of the law.

**Tries to Smash Precedent**  
In making the race for the governorship Sandy is attempting to smash precedent; no lieutenant-governor of North Carolina has ever been able to step directly from the No. 2 office to the No. 1 job. Lieutenant-governors of the state have later become governors, but only after they had been out of office at least one term. The last lieutenant-governor to attempt to bridge the gap was Dick Fountain, who came very close to doing it in 1932 in a run-off with Ehringhaus.

In Raleigh and among the leading political lights Sandy has the reputation of being among the best parlia-

mentarians in the State. Debate may get tangled and snarled and long-drawn out, but Sandy keeps every move, every motion, every legislative rule, neatly tabulated in his mind.

The main plank in the Graham platform establishment of a state liquor store system to replace the present state of mixed affairs, with the revenue to be applied toward reduction of the sales tax levy to not more than two per cent.

He is usually classed as neither conservative nor liberal, but as a middle-of-the-roader. Pro-sales taxers and anti-sales taxers, wets and dries, conservatives and liberal republicans and democrats, alike praise his impartiality in making rulings during legislative debate.

## GRAHAM WANTS NEW HIGHWAY SYSTEM

### Advocates Changes and More Rapid Repairs To All Roads

Raleigh, May 25—Enthusiasm with which Sandy Graham's views on road matters have been received has led the Hillsboro man's supporters to feel more confident than ever that he will lead the field in the June 6 primary.

Mr. Graham, in each speech he has made for the past two weeks, has referred to the road situation and has consistently advocated a complete reorganization of the present highway set-up and more rapid repairs to the county or secondary roads.

His view is that the present highway commission has lost touch with the people and that it would be to the best interests of the state to reorganize under a new system.

Mr. Graham advocates a highway commission to be composed of eleven members, one from each Congressional district. In this way he feels that each section will have its own representative on the board who can keep informed of the condition of the roads—particularly the county roads—in each county and act as advocate before the entire commission.

On the matter of repairs, Mr. Graham has repeatedly urged that more men be put to work repairing damage done by the recent hard winter. He contends that there is surplus enough in the highway funds to get this work underway immediately and to complete it long before 1937, the date on which the present highway commission says conditions will be restored to normal.

### Machine McDonald Talks Was Long Since Dismantled

(Continued from Page One.)  
he claims is now trying to nominate either Clyde R. Hoey or Sandy Graham for governor. If the recommendations of Governor Ehringhaus had been followed either by the 1933 or 1935 general assemblies, the terrible and horrible "machine" would have been almost completely junked. For Governor Ehringhaus vigorously recommended the abolition of the absentee ballot—long regarded as both sparks plugs and battery of the "machine". The abolition of the absentee ballot would have rendered the so-called "machine" as dead and as lifeless as a dismantled automobile on

a junk pile, all practical politicians agree, especially with the secret ballot law in effect. Neither the 1933 nor the 1935 legislatures—Dr. McDonald was a member of the latter—looked with favor upon the recommendations of Governor Ehringhaus to repeal the absentee ballot law, many of them evidently figuring that they might run for some office some time. It is a matter of record that Dr. McDonald did not offer any opposition to the secret ballot law while a member of the 1935 legislature. It is also a fact that in his campaign for governor he has not cried out against it, but that on the other hand, his campaign managers have sent out instructions to his county managers and precinct workers to get their absentee ballots early and to use them effectively. His headquarters issued an announcement to this effect within the last week or so.

**Gardner Wrecked It.**  
So the facts are that former Governor Gardner, by his insistence on the enactment of the secret ballot law, more to wreck the old Democratic "machine" than any of his predecessors, and by McDonald's own admission is now making it easier for McDonald to be nominated than any one else. Yet Dr. McDonald is accusing Gardner of being the chief pilot of the awful machine which is now seeking to crush McDonald and his followers and force the nomination of Mr. Hoey, in contravention of the will of the people, although in the next breath McDonald admits that because of the secret ballot law, the votes of the masses can no longer be controlled by the "machine."

**After Absentee Ballots.**  
Nor does this unusual situation stop with Gardner and the secret ballot law. It goes on to the absentee ballot law. For while Dr. McDonald had nothing to say about the absentee act, his workers have been intimating that the "machine" expects to use it against McDonald despite the fact that word has gone out to the McDonald forces to make what use they can of the absentee ballot. But if the recommendations of Governor Ehringhaus had been followed, there would not now be any absentee ballot law, so that the "machine" could not possibly use it against Dr. McDonald. It might, however, have put something of a crimp in the McDonald campaign plans and deprived him of some votes.

All of which is causing those who have been thinking about these things to wonder if there is a "machine," if so, whose "machine" and if Dr. McDonald isn't trying to build a new "machine" of his own now that Machinists Gardner and Ehringhaus have already dismantled and junked the old "machine."

### Graham Is Confident 2nd Place

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Donald, rather than by desertion from the Hoey camp. They state for publication that these gains have put Sandy in the second primary beyond doubt.

### May Force Issue On Constitution

(Continued from Page One.)  
ly satisfactory to all anti-New Dealers, either.  
**A SICK INDUSTRY**  
Bituminous coal mining is a notoriously sick industry. Not only the miners but many of the big mine owners suffer from the malady. The later

were as hopeful as the former that the Guffey remedy would ease their sufferings.  
Now it appears that the proposed medicine is illegal.  
A considerable number of conservative as well as liberal congressional voices are raised to the effect, that, to keep up with changing conditions, various new enactments are needed whether or not they are unconstitutional.

**ISSUE MAY BE FORCED**  
Rooseveltians seemingly have not been in favor of fighting, during the coming campaign, for a limitation of the Supreme Court's power to nullify acts of Congress.

Some time ago the President hinted at the raising of such an issue, when he spoke of the undesirability of returning to "horse and buggy" days, as defended by the court's "nine old men" in their opinions. It was a "wise crack" which evidently did not "take," however, or apparently he thought it did not, for he did not follow it up.

But today, with the august "nine's" majority manifestly determined to block his whole program, he may have to.

### Ask Federal Aid Against Black Sect

(Continued from Page One.)  
pierced body on a little travelled road on May 13 set in motion investigators which disclosed the existence of a widespread national organization, with a reported membership of 135,000 armed men in Michigan alone. Thirteen men, including seven of

the police name as being present when Poole was shot to death were under arrest here.

Another, said by State police to be a "brigadier general" in the Michigan black legion, was held in Jackson for investigation into a reported flogging death, and Detroit police were on the trail of a mysterious "State commander," who apparently had fled over the week-end as one revelation into the hooded order followed another.

National officers were being sought in other states.

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