



Guide to the Evans Family Papers, 1920s-1990s

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

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Summary

Collection Title:

Evans family papers, 1920s-1990s

Creator:

Evans family

Abstract:

Collection contains correspondence, scrapbooks, albums, clippings, addresses, writings, and other materials that concern the personal lives and careers of Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel J. ("Mutt") and Sara Evans, and their sons, Robert and Eli. Mutt Evans's mayoral correspondence is divided into a general file and a subject file. Some materials depict the private lives of the Evanses, including photographs, albums, and personal correspondence. Sara's family, the Nachamsons, is often represented. The collection also includes extensive documentation about Sara's role in Hadassah, both locally and nationally, as well as the family's participation in other Isareli and Jewish causes. Also included are materials from their work in developing and fundraising for the Judaic Studies Program at Duke University.

Extent:

24 Linear Feet (5609 Items)

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

RL.00369

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m11s6s>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Evans Family Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection contains correspondence, scrapbooks, albums, clippings, addresses, writings, and other materials that concern the personal lives and careers of the Evans family, particularly Emanuel J. and Sara Evans, their sons, Eli and Robert, and Emanuel's brother, Monroe. The family owned and operated United Department Stores, and for twelve years, 1951 to 1963, Emanuel Evans was mayor of Durham, NC. He was also very active in his synagogue, was a president of VISTAS, and participated actively in the University of North Carolina's Alumni Association.

There are two scrapbooks on Emanuel Evans's mayoral terms and a similar volume and other materials devoted to Mrs. Evans's activities as leader of Hadassah including items pertaining to Israel. Mr. Evans's mayoral correspondence is divided into a general file and a subject file. In pictures and personal correspondence, the Nachamson family is often represented. One early clipping from a Fayetteville, N.C. newspaper, tells of Mr. Evans's sister being refused teaching positions because of her Jewish faith. Eli Evans is a correspondent and writer, led the establishment of the National Jewish Archives of Broadcasting, and was on the staff of the Carnegie Foundation that helped launch "Sesame Street." He was president of the UNC student body and a number of items in the collection concern his presidency.

Also included is an address of Eli Evans presented during the conference on Southern-Jewish history in 1976, Eli Evans's vita, his unpublished diary of the Kissinger shuttle, and a large number of his writings, many concerning U.S. politics, minorities, and Jews in the South. There is a reprint of a chapter from his book, *The Provincials*, and reports from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, of which he is president. Also included are materials concerning Eli's brother Robert, a correspondent with CBS, who continued on as a television executive. Their uncle, Monroe Evans, was mayor of Fayetteville, NC, and his service is documented in several of the collection's scrapbooks.

One entire scrapbook is devoted to the writings of Mildred and Madeline Evans, Monroe's wife and daughter.

The audiovisual series contains a 16mm film copy of a 1957 episode of Edward R. Murrow's "See It Now," with which Robert Evans was involved, and a 16mm film copy of Governor Terry Sanford's November 1964 appearance on WUNC-TV, in which he reflects on his governorship and the current political scene. Several audio recordings capture Sara Evans addressing the Seaboard Regional

Conference of Hadassah in 1982. Eli N. Evans's appearance on Richard D. Heffner's *The Open Mind* is documented.

Biographical/Historical

The Evans family was active in Durham, N.C. civic leadership, local and national Jewish leadership, and national journalism. The family owned and operated United Dollar stores, and for twelve years, 1951 to 1963, E.J. "Mutt" Evans was mayor of Durham. Mutt Evans was a president of VISTAS, and participated actively in University of North Carolina alumni affairs. Sara Evans was a leader at both the local and national levels of Hadassah. The couple was also very active in their synagogue, Beth El. Both sons attended the University of North Carolina and were student leaders on campus. Robert Evans became a correspondent with CBS, working with Edward R. Murrow, and then a television executive. Eli Evans is a correspondent and writer, led the establishment of the National Jewish Archives of Broadcasting, and was on the staff of the Carnegie Foundation that helped launch "Sesame Street." He also authored *THE PROVINCIALS* and *JUDAH P. BENJAMIN: THE JEWISH CONFEDERATE*, and serves as president of the Charles H. Revson Foundation.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Access note. Collection contains some original audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of

the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Evans Family papers were a gift to Duke University in 1986 and 1989.

Processing Information

Processed by: Marion Hirsch

Completed February 2, 1998

Encoded by Michael Shumate

Audiovisual series added by Craig Breaden, December 2017.

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Names and Subjects

- Antisemitism
- Jews in the Southern States
- Photographs
- Durham (N.C.) -- Politics and government
- Durham (N.C.) -- History
- Israel
- Department stores -- North Carolina
- Department stores
- United States -- Politics and government
- Display of merchandise
- Evans, Sara Nachamson, 1905-1986
- Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
- Evans, Monroe
- Evans, Robert
- Nachamson family
- University of North Carolina -- Alumni
- Evans, Eli N.
- Evans, Emanuel J.
- Charles H. Revson Foundation

Collection Inventory

Evans Family Series

Addresses and Writings, 1946-1977, undated Physical Description: 3 folders	Box 1
Alumni Annual Giving	Box 1
The American Israel Honorarium, Vol. 2	Box 24
American Israel Public Affairs Committee, 1976-1982	Box 24
Artifacts Scope and Contents Includes 2 gavels, 2 Hadassah medals, and Bar Mitzvah prayerbooks for both Eli and Robert.	Box 29
Beth El Synagogue history by Sara Evans, with related correspondence	Box 25
Biographical information, 1953-1976, undated	Box 1
Family biographies Physical Description: 3 folders	Box 26
Business correspondence, 1937-1954, undated	Box 1
Civic Honor Award of the Durham Chamber of Commerce, Evans, E. J.	Box 1
Clippings, 1926-1951	Box 1
Clippings, 1952-1977, undated Physical Description: 5 folders	Box 2
Committee of One Hundred (Chamber of Commerce)	Box 2
Congratulations	Box 2

Correspondence, 1954-1958 Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 2
Correspondence, 1959-1976 Physical Description: 7 folders	Box 3
Correspondence, 1977, undated	Box 4
Evans, E. J. "Father of the Year," 1965	Box 4
Evans, Sara, Obituaries, 1986	Box 4
E. J. and Sara's 50th wedding anniversary scrapbook Scope and Contents Scrapbook of well-wishes and celebrations of their anniversary.	Box 30
Duke archives donation, 1977	Box 24
Durham Federation of Jewish Charities	Box 4
Family honors and awards, oversize, 1960s-1990s	Box 28
Hadassah	
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Miscellaneous Hadassah materials, 1954-1977 and undated	Box 4
Miscellaneous, 1934-1980s	Box 25
Durham Board Meeting notes, 1920s-1970s Physical Description: 5 folders	Box 25
Durham chapter membership list, oversize	Box 28
Sara Evans' miscellaneous correspondence and documents, 1980s	Box 25
Walter Eytan visit to Duke, 1982	Box 25
Zionist Affairs regional documents, 1971-1978 and undated	Box 25

Correspondence with local members,
1978-1983 and undated Box 25

Durham Chapter, 1979-1984 and undated Box 25

Southern Seaboard Region correspondence,
etc., 1964-1983 Box 25

Physical Description: 2 folders

Southern Seaboard Regional Conference, 1984 Box 25

Durham Federation, 1983 Box 25

Ya'al, 1954-1982 Box 25

Correspondence with national office,
1976-1984 Box 25

Physical Description: 2 folders

Hebrew Culture Foundation correspondence,
1972-1976 Box 24

Judaic Studies Program

Miscellaneous materials, Duke University and
the University of North Carolina at Chapel
Hill, 1972-1977, undated Box 5

Press release and publicity, 1971-1977 Box 24

Study programs, correspondence, 1970s Box 24

Finances, 1972-1973 Box 24

Filled pledges, 1970s Box 24

Correspondence, 1973 Box 24

Dedications of Judaic Studies Program, 1974 Box 24

Dedication of Evans Judaic Hall, 1980 Box 24

Scrapbook (disbound) from dedication of
Evans Judaic Hall, 1980 Box 24

Correspondence, 1981-1985 Box 24

Physical Description: 3 folders

Student oral history project with Beth-El Synagogue, undated	Box 24
Miscellany, 1929-1976, undated	Box 5
NC Association for Jewish Women, 1977	Box 24
Preferred Stock Certificates (4 vols.)	Box 6
President of the Student Body at the University of North Carolina, Evans, Eli N.	Box 7
Printed material, 1928-1977, undated	Box 7
Printed material, 1977	Box 7
Synagogue Center/Percival Goodman	Box 7
Suspense file, 1949-1962	Box 7
United Fund	Box 7
United Jewish Appeal, 1957-1966	Box 7
University of North Carolina	Box 7
Vistas, Inc.: President's file, 1960-1971, undated	Box 8
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Watts Hospital	Box 8
Watts Hospital Bond Speakers	Box 8
Oversize materials	Box Sec. A OV5
Oversize publications profiling the Evans family, 1950s-1960s	Box 28
Photographs	
E. J. Evans, 1917-1973, undated	Box 5
E. J. Evans, 1920s-1980s and undated	Box 24
E. J. Evans as Mayor of Durham, 1951-1966 and undated	Box 5
Physical Description: 2 folders	

Sara N. Evans, 1928-1972, undated	Box 5
Sara Evans, undated	Box 24
Robert M. and Eli N. Evans, 1950-1974, undated	Box 5
Robert Evans, 1950s-1960s	Box 24
Eli Evans, 1980s	Box 24
Eli Evans' album from his service on the USS Saint Paul, 1959	Box 30
Scope and Contents	
Includes snapshots with captions documenting his Navy tour through Japan.	
Evans Family, 1940-1976, undated	Box 5
Evans Family, 1940s-1990s	Box 24
E. J. and Sara's 50th wedding anniversary album, 1978	Box 28
Scope and Contents	
Disbound scrapbook album of photographs celebrating their anniversary.	
Israel, 1976 (slides)	Box 24
Nachamson family, 1901-1970, undated	Box 5
Miscellany, 1934-1953	Box 6
Miscellany, 1953-1977, undated	Box 6
Durham house, 1021 Dacian Ave.	Box 24
Oversize photographs of Robert and Eli	Box 28

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E. J. "Mutt" Evans Series

Mayor's Office

Airport, 1952-1961	Box 9
Appointment for committees, etc.	Box 9
Annual Report	Box 9
Aull, Jr., George H. (City Manager, Durham, N.C.)	Box 9
Centennial	Box 9
Change and improvements, 1953-1961	Box 9
Complaints and suggestions from individuals	Box 9
"Congratulations for Mayor," 1951, Mar-1961 Physical Description: 3 folders	Box 9
Correspondence (general), 1951-1953 Physical Description: 7 folders	Box 10
Correspondence (general), 1954-1963, undated Physical Description: 7 folders	Box 11
Correspondence (personal) 1951-1963 Physical Description: 5 folders	Box 12
"Fluoride"	Box 12
Housing Authority	Box 12
Human Relations Committee	Box 12
Lerner, Connie: Miss North Carolina, 1971	Box 12
Long Range Planning Committee (Chamber of Commerce)	Box 12
Mayor's campaigns, 1951-1963 Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 13
Mayor's campaign posters, 1950s-1960s	Box 28
N.C. League of Municipalities, 1951-1961, undated	Box 13

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Radio/Television Stations	Box 13
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Speech material	Box 13
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General Files, 1920s-1990s

Memorial book and memorials, 1997-1998	Box 27
Honors and awards	Box 27

Scope and Contents

Includes color reproduction photocopies of original plaques.

Home Security salute by Evans, 1959	Box 27
Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity, 1924-1980s	Box 27
UNC materials, 1920s	Box 27
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Personal correspondence, 1974-1990	Box 27
City Hall mayor portrait, 1983	Box 27
Correspondence with VIPs (Senators, etc.), 1970s-1980s	Box 27

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Sara Evans Series

Personal correspondence re: family set-up/reunions, 1960s-1980s	Box 26
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Scope and Contents

"Family set-up" refers to the United Nachamsons' financial accounts.

Writings on Russian Jewry, 1966	Box 26
Research, correspondence from Hadassah trip to Russia, 1960 and 1966	Box 26
Personal correspondence, 1950s-1986 Physical Description: 7 folders	Box 26
Speeches, 1956-1979	Box 26
Clippings	Box 26
Condolences upon Sara's death, 1986	Box 26
Memorials/obituaries, 1986	Box 26
Memorial trees	Box 26
Clippings re: Sara Evans' death and memorial, 1986	Box 26

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Robert M. Evans Series

Resumes/biography/CVs	Box 27
Personal correspondence, 1950s	Box 27
UNC materials	Box 27
Omar Bradley visit to UNC, 1951	Box 27
Mark Clark visit to UNC, 1951	Box 27
Carolina Forum correspondence, 1950-1951	Box 27
Dept. of Navy service, 1952	Box 27
Rhodes Scholar application, 1954	Box 27
Writings about Israel, 1954-1955	Box 27

Afghanistan Expedition clippings, materials, 1956	Box 27
Physical Description: 2 folders	
"Japan: Friend or Foe" draft, undated	Box 27
Clippings	Box 27
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Speaking engagements	Box 27
Writings re: Berlin, 1961-1962	Box 27
U.S. Information Agency press releases, 1961-1963	Box 27
Physical Description: 2 folders	
E.R. Murrow remarks, statements, speeches, 1961-1963	Box 27
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Miscellaneous writings	Box 27
Essay honoring Sara Evans, 1989	Box 27

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Eli N. Evans Series

Addresses and Writings of Eli N. Evans	Box 14
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Foreword for "A Proud History"	Box 27
WNET: Civilization and the Jews	Box 27
Terry Sanford materials	Box 27
Miscellaneous documents	Box 27
Diary of the Kissinger Shuttle, 1975	Box 14
Addresses and writings of others	Box 14
Biography	Box 14

Charles H. Revson Foundation, 1978-1986	Box 14
Charles H. Revson Foundation public broadcasting materials	Box 27
Pictures	Box 14
The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South by Eli N. Evans	Box 14
The Provincials: press, reviews, etc. Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 27
Resume/biography/CVs	Box 27
UNC Student President election, 1957	Box 27
Judah P. Benjamin: reviews, press, etc.	Box 27
Clippings Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 27
Publicity for published works, oversize	Box 28

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Evans Family, Pictures, ca. 1922-1947	Box 15
Eli N. Evans, Pictures, High School and UNC	Box 15
Evans Family, "Special Events," 1928-1977	Box 16
Sara N. Evans, "This is My Life," 1954-1962	Box 16
E. J. Evans, 1936-1976	Box 17
Robert M. Evans, 1920-1977	Box 17
Sara N. Evans, "Eight Sisters in Israel, November - December 1968"	Box 17
Eli N. Evans, Student Body President, UNC, 1957-1958	Box 18

E. J. Evans, "Retiring Mayor, Durham, NC," 1963	Box 18
Evans Family, "Publicity," 1928-1955	Box 18
Evans Family, Pictures, 1948-1976	Box 19
Monroe E. Evans, "Mayoral September 1966- March 1967"	Box 19
Monroe E. Evans, "Mayoral July 1965- September 1966"	Box 20
Monroe E. Evans, "Mayoral March 1965-June 1965"	Box 20
Monroe E. Evans, "March 1967-April 1969"	Box 21
Monroe E. Evans, 1921-1959	Box 22
Monroe E. Evans, 1969	Box 23
Monroe E. Evans, "United Service Fund, 1957-1972"	Box 23
Madeline and Mildred Evans, "Writings," 1958-1963	Box 23

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Audiovisual materials, 1957-2005

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Series contains some original audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

See It Now: England After Suez, part 1,
1957-03-03

Physical Description: 0:29:50

Original 16mm film, black and white, optical
sound

Box 33 > Film-reel RL00369-
F16-0001

Digital video and audio preservation files

Digital-materials RL00369-
SET-0001 > Video-file
RL00369-F16-0002.mkv

Digital-materials RL00369-
SET-0001 > Audio-file
RL00369-F16-0002.wav

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Optical soundtrack scanned with picture, then converted to audio as a separate file using AEO Light. The video and audio files were then synchronized for the access MP4.

Digital video access file

Digital-materials RL00369-
SET-0001 > Video-file
RL00369-F16-0001.mp4

See It Now: England After Suez, part 2,
1957-03-03
Physical Description: 0:29:34

Original 16mm film, black and white, optical
sound

Box 33 > Film-reel RL00369-
F16-0002

Digital video and audio preservation files

Digital-materials RL00369-
SET-0002 > Video-file
RL00369-F16-0002.mkv
Digital-materials RL00369-
SET-0002 > Audio-file
RL00369-F16-0002.wav

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Optical soundtrack scanned with picture, then converted to audio as a separate file using AEO Light. The video and audio files were then synchronized for the access MP4.

Digital video access file

Digital-materials RL00369-
SET-0002 > Video-file
RL00369-F16-0002.mp4

Palm Beach, 1964-10-29
Original 1/4-inch

Box 32 > Audio-reel
RL00369-RR-0003

Recorded speech of Mrs. E.J. Evans, at King's
Bay Yacht Club, Miami, Florida, 1964-11-02
Original 1/4-inch

Box 32 > Audio-reel
RL00369-RR-0002

Governor Sanford, WUNC-TV, 1964-11-10

Original 16mm film, sd., b&w	Box 34 > Film-reel RL00369-F16-0003
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Digital video use copy	Digital-materials RL00369-SET-0003 > Video-file RL00369-F16-0003_uc.mov
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Physical Description: Rough reference copy.; 0:25:48

Chamber Distinguished Service Award Presentation, Dr. Rankin and Mr. E.J. Evans, 1965-01-19	
Original 1/4-inch	Box 32 > Audio-reel RL00369-RR-0001

Dedication of Judaic Hall and dinner speeches, 1980-04-14	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0006

Seaboard Regional Conference, Speaker Sara Evans, years 1920 to 1950, 1982-05-02	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0004

Sara speaks at Seaboard Regional Conference, at evening session, 1982-05-02	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0005

Sara speaks at Seaboard Regional Conference, night session, 1982-05-03	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0001

Sara speaks, 1982-05-03	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0002

Sara speaks at Hadassah Seaboard Region; presentation of 1982 Myrtle Wreath Award to Mutt, Hadassah Regional Conf., 1982-05-03	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0003

The Open Mind: On Being "The Other", Host: Richard D. Heffner, Guest: Eli N. Evans, 2005-05-11	
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Original VHS	Box 32 > Video-cassette RL00369-VHS-0001
The Open Mind: On Being "The Other", Host: Richard D. Heffner, Guest: Eli N. Evans, 2005-05-11	
Original DVD	Box 32 > Video-disc RL00369-DVD-0001
The Open Mind: On Being "The Other", Host: Richard D. Heffner, Guest: Eli N. Evans, 2005-05-11	
Original DVD	Box 32 > Video-disc RL00369-DVD-0002
untitled, undated	
Original 1/4-inch open reel audio tape	Box 32 > Audio-reel RL00369-RR-0004
Perry Como, undated	
Original 1/4-inch open reel audio tape	Box 32 > Audio-reel RL00369-RR-0005
untitled, undated	
Original 1/4-inch open reel audio tape	Box 32 > Audio-reel RL00369-RR-0006
untitled, undated	
Original 1/4-inch open reel audio tape	Box 32 > Audio-reel RL00369-RR-0007
untitled, undated	
Original 1/4-inch open reel audio tape	Box 32 > Audio-reel RL00369-RR-0008
Introduction, undated	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0007
untitled, undated	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0008
untitled - possibly backup copy of other audiocassette in collection (made by Duke), undated	

Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0009
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untitled - possibly backup copy of other audiocassette in collection (made by Duke), undated	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0010
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untitled - possibly backup copy of other audiocassette in collection (made by Duke), undated	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0011
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untitled - possibly backup copy of other audiocassette in collection (made by Duke), undated	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0012
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Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0013
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Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0014
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Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0015
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untitled - possibly backup copy of other audiocassette in collection (made by Duke), undated	
Original audiocassette	Box 32 > Audio-cassette RL00369-CS-0016

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