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### Quirks in the news

Home evades taxes

United Press International LINCOLN, Neb. — Deputies attempting to serve papers for non-payment of taxes found the home they were seeking had vanished, leaving behind an empty lot and a muddy trail.

But Lancaster County

sheriff's deputies were not deterred. "They followed the old

mud trail and found it," deputy Roy Ostrander said. deputy had seen the house being moved to a new site a mile away, but didn't

realize it was the one that owed back taxes, he said. The deputies posted distress warrants on the house for \$9,200 in unpaid personal property taxes dating to 1979.

#### A whale of a find

URBANA, Ill. — University of Illinois officials are not sure what their unique copy of "Moby Dick" is worth, but they know it is a rare edition.

The first American edition, in two volumes, of Herman Melville's novel -- with a title page displaying the book's English title, "The Whale" — was found in 1977. But it wasn't until late last year that the professor of English who discovered it learned of the book's authenticity.

drick discovered the book in a trunk in a home two blocks from his office. This fall, a noted Melville scholar, G. Thomas Tanselle, published results of an exhaustive study in the "Book Collector," confirming the discovery is a unique copy of the novel.

A clipping in one of the volumes indicated it had come from the library of the author.
A signature of Melville's brother also appeared in the book, Hendrick said.

The current value of the book is unknown, but in 1977 a different copy, signed by Melville before he gave it to one of his old shipmates, sold at auction for \$53,000.

#### Community comes to help

## Boy allergic to blood

United Press International BOSTON — The Red Cross says its phones are "ringing off the hook" with offers of blood for John Duckworth, the 3-yearold boy who is allergic to his own blood and needs 30 pints a day to stay alive.

The boy is in serious condition at Children's Hospital Medical Center. Doctors said he suffers from a defect that causes antibodies to attack his blood platelets — the cells that allow the blood to clot.

The antibodies also may attack red and white blood cells and make him prone to infec-

John, who was born with the mysterious ailment, once needed the platelets from 50 pints of blood a day. He already has undergone six operations, including brain surgery on New

"They call it the John Duck-worth disease because they have never seen anything like it," said the boy's father, John Duck-worth, of Hudson, Mass.

A Red Cross spokeswoman in Boston said donations had soared since the boy's condition became public. A special blood drive in Boston during the weekend brought in 880 pints,

The phone has been ringing off the wall with people who want to donate blood, or groups that want to set up blood drives, she said.

"We've had calls from all over the country," added hospital spokeswoman Judy Hearst. "And more blood will be needed for John.

A portable bloodmobile was to be set up between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. today in the boy's home-town of Hudson, a community of 10,000 people 25 miles west of Boston.

Several teenagers in Hudson have been knocking on doors seeking blood pledges or finan-

cial support for the Duch "We are going to ma

everyone knows about want everyone to eit money or blood," said B Hussain, 14, before shear Arka other teens started the

and five pledges in an interest A& Hudson's Amvets, of Claud and the Marlborough have organized blood and the Hudson National began a fund to defin medical costs.

Kathy Duckworth sai was surprised her son's tion has garnered so mu

### Radioactive cargo found

United Press International DETROIT — A DC-8 transport plane crashed in flames at Metropolitan Airport Tuesday, killing all three crew members, but radioactive material carried

on board was recovered from

the wreckage intact, authorities

The 21-pound radioactive

package, resembling a paint can, was found about 20 yards from radioactive contamination at the the main trunk of the fuselage, officials said. It was burned and covered with mud but intact.

Robert J. Sabo, a health physicist with the Michigan Department of Public Health, removed the container on a shovel for further inspection. He said over an area about the size of

crash site. The United Flight 2885

bound for Los Angeles took off at 2:50 a.m. EST and crashed a short time later in an open area about 50 yards beyond a woods,

two football fields. The lecords – four engines were scatter loaches – all sides of the smooth in State fuselage.

Wayne County Road mission spokesman Lou III. 198-51 said the plane crashed who key match of its four engines caught nan Jimm an altitude between 50 jound Not

Officials of United Air Line confer the Nuclear Regulatory (lunks and mission and National Tran Aggie fact tation Safety Board were soy a score the scene, about 25 miles wAggies' las Detroit in suburban Romal score of

There was considerable steals again fusion over the radio hose block material on the plane. Offeam's 66 if then later said they were 32-75 dur sure. Sugo finally confirme er what h covery about five hours the Razort he final b the crash. 'leading

"It's a mixed blessing," NBA ... S down and there's no relie yame with we have three dead built major disaster.

"We were very fortuna that the radioactive mater recovered intact," he "Health authorities said doubtful there would be an posure problem.

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