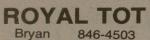
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Death toll could reach 80

an commuter train

SYDNEY, Australia — A crowded commuter train derailed into a 100ton bridge today, collapsing it in an avalanche of concrete that trapped hundreds of screaming passengers would be blown sky high," said a under tons of rubble and crushed member of the gas company's

A police spokesman said 29 persons were known dead and 62 injured, but officials predicted the death toll would reach at least 80. Police Inspector Ray Williams called it "the worst disaster Sydney has Gas leaking from a ruptured line

hampered rescue workers trying to reach the trapped survivors.

"One naked flame and this place would be blown sky high," said a

emergency squad. "People are wandering around the streets with blood over them, and you can hear people still trapped in the carriages screaming for their

lives," said one witness.

As priests crawled through the wreckage to administer the last rites, a spokesman for the ambulance brigade said his crew could no longer handle the number of injured. "We have simply run out of units," he

The train — eight wooden cars and an engine — was on its daily 70-mile run from Mount Victoria to Sydney when it derailed shortly after 8 a.m. as it approached Granville,

GO FOR THE

GUSTO

The carriages slewed off the track and hit the bridge supports and the whole bridge just collapsed across the train," a witness said. Three automobiles that were on the bridge also pitched onto the coaches.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said there were about 600 persons aboard the train at the time and police estimated about 200 were trapped by the rubble.

One survivor said the weight of the concrete hitting this car caused it

to "burst open like a sardine tin."
"I've been in the war and have seen some bad injuries but none as shocking as I saw today," he said. We were torn upside down and in-

side out."
"The first carriage is completely entombed by a massive slab of the bridge," said Father Kerris, a parish priest from suburban Merrylands who rushed to the scene. "At this point we can only pray for them."

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Emergency squads tore the wooden carriages apart with pneumatic drills, chain saws and their bare hands but the leaking gas overcame several rescue workers and slowed their work.

Dr. Peter Christopher, in charge the rescue medical team, said, "We are locating people by tapping on the side of the carriage. People are either tapping back or calling their names out.

"They are trapped among the dead and we are doing what we can

to crawl inside part of the third to give five people we know are; injections of morphine.

The coach has been squi down to a height of about two The chances of more than a han of people surviving that are ven mote," he said.

Standing at the edge of the lapsed overpass, New South W Premier Neville Wran said: God, it's unbelievable

Memorial scholarshi named for oil exec

A President's Endowed Scholarship for Texas A&M has been established by friends of late oil drilling executive Ernest A. Elwood, Jr Elwood, president of Prudential Drilling Co., died Dec. 23 in Hous-

Contributions may be made to the scholarship, set up through the Texas A&M Development Foundation, in care of Philip B. Lucas, 1870 Post Oak Tower Bldg., 5051 Westheimer, Houston, 77056.

The Elwood President's Scholar, a geology major, will receive a scholarship from income derived L. Walker, Texas A&M deve ment director.

A plaque in memory of Elwo 1946 A&M graduate, will be a in the University's Memorial dent Center. Elwood was also a director of

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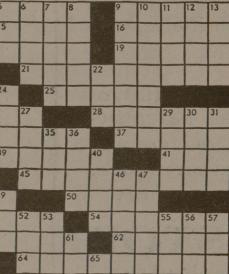
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