Twisted Metal

A Quintessentially Victorian Spectacle
MK&T Railroad

1896 – Crush wants to generate publicity for MKT

The Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Line

William George Crush – MKT marketing

Twisted Metal
The Event

- Public train wreck
- To be held in a valley in Texas
- Food and entertainment set up to cater for the event – like a festival of sorts
- 30,000 spectators come from all over the region (Dallas population 40,000)
- 4pm: it begins
The Handshake
‘The rumble of the two trains, faint and far off at first, but growing nearer and more distinct with each flitting second, was like the gathering of a cyclone. Nearer and nearer they came, whistles blowing and the torpedoes which had been placed on the track exploding like the rattle of musketry. Every eye was strained. Every nerve on edge. They rolled down at frightful speed (sixty miles an hour each) and hundreds who had come to see found their hearts growing faint and were compelled to turn away.’
The Moment Before Impact

Jervis Deane, 1896
Both boilers explode, raining metal on the crowd
Three killed, many wounded
Aftermath

Crowd delighted – a successful event!