

ATTEMPT TO BURN PRISONERS ALIVE

Thongs Part and Negro Flees, Only
to be Shot by Mob—Accused
of Killing Officer

Leland, Miss., February 24.

Sam Petty, a negro, accused of having killed Charles W. Kirkland, a deputy sheriff, here late today, was shot to death by a mob tonight and his body burned. An effort to burn the negro alive failed when the flames burned the ropes with which he had been bound. He was riddled with bullets when he attempted to escape.

Petty, wanted on a trival charge, opened fire on Kirkland with a shot gun when the officer entered a cabin on the outskirts of Leland in which the negro had taken refuge. Kirkland was instantly killed.

Tonight Petty was captured by a posse of citizens and before officers could secure possession of him a mob had formed and determined on the torch as a means of execution. With little ceremony the negro was bound and placed in an oil-soaked dry box and the match applied. A moment later the man, his clothing aflame, broke from his fastenings and started to run, but before he could gain headway was riddled with bullets. The body was then replaced in the box, fresh inflammables were piled about it and within half an hour burned to ashes.

The mob then dispersed and no further disorder is anticipated. Up to a late hour tonight no arrests had been made.

Several weeks ago a policeman was shot to death here by a negro, and when news of the killing of Kirkland was circulated the mob was quick in gathering tonight. It is estimated that more than 300 men took part in the lynching.