

New Orleans States-Item

19 Jan 72

Two Klan Members Attacked by Blacks

See Picture on Page 14.

Two members of the Ku Klux Klan were attacked by brick-throwing blacks this afternoon as they marched in front of Robert E. Lee's statue at Lee Circle observing the Confederate leader's birthday anniversary.

Police said Rowell Thompson, who identified himself as the Imperial Wizard of the Klan in New Orleans, was injured slightly on the arm when struck by a brick.

A companion, Rene LaCoste, 231 Royal, who claims to be the Imperial Kludd of the Klan, was unhurt.

Officers said a taxi driver, Albert N.

Jacobs Sr., 55, 185 Corman, Westwego, who was parked nearby, fired two shots into the air to drive the attackers off.

Booked with assault were James N. Smith, 21, 444 St. Mary, and Russell Wymen, 21, 3048 Louisa. A third black left the scene.

Jacobs was booked with possession and discharge of firearms inside the city limits.

Police said Thompson and LaCoste had draped a Confederate flag on the base of the statue and were marching up and down when attacked. Thompson wore Klan regalia and LaCoste was in street clothes.