Image Of Christ In Screen Draws Crowds In Delcambre

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DELCAMBRE - Ministers, housewives, builders, nurses and teenagers say they have witnessed the mystical, melancholy image of a bearded man in Lois Linden's screened window.

None of them know who the supposed "vision" in the rusty grids at 466 W. Church St. represents or what it means, but everyone can speculate.

"It's Jesus," a convinced 8-year-old girl said. "He has sad eyes and long hair and a beard."

Others have reported seeing crosses, likenesses of deceased relatives, the Virgin Mary, a demonic looking man, words like love, help, Christ and test fading in and out of view.

"The Lord must be trying to say something," Katherine Tene, who lives in the same block as the Lindens, said.

Theories about what the vision may symbolize vary.

"I know we need to pray more, that much I know," one eye-witness said. "Maybe it means Christ is coming again soon."

Mrs. Linden speculates that the vision is a warning and a reminder that Christ died, is alive and is coming again.

"It made me start thinking," she added. "When we go to heaven, we will be with Jesus, and it made me realize that we can be surrounded with him now. What do we have to be afraid of?"

Mrs. Linden's father, the Rev. H.J. Simmons, says "there is some message there. I just can't definitely say what. I think it could mean some type of warning to people. It could have some biblical meaning."

The image's message may be: sin is at its peak in Delcambre and people should repent and unite in Christian love, he added.

The Rev. Simmons said he had to see the image to believe it.

"Now I've seen it," he said. "A picture of Christ's face. Like pictures of Him you're always seen. He looks very laborious, like He's worked hard and is tired."

Other skeptics have been flooding the Lindens' backyard to stand for hours, staring at the ordinary-looking screen. But unlike the Rev. Simmons, not all of them have been converted by seeing the vision.

"I don't see anything," one bouncing yunister said. "What's the use of standing here looking at a window, if I can't see anything in it."

Some adults failed to get a glimpse of the supposed image, too.

"These people are all idiots," an onlooker grumbled as he walked away. Another admitted all he saw was a regular wood-framed screen.

Ideas also abound about why some can see Christ's picture in the Lindens' kitchen window and others can't.

"The ones that don't believe in Jesus Christ, they don't see it," one believer said. "Your heart has to be purified to see it."

Others said concentration is the key. "You have to imagine it," a mother instructed her restless daughter. "The more you concentrate and try to picture it, the more you will be able to see."

Since Mrs. Linden first noticed the Christ-like image more than a week ago, crowds of curiosity seekers have flocked around her wonder-window every day and night.

But 22-year-old Mrs. Linden says she isn't bothered by all the commotion.

"I don't mind it at all," she says. "I figure if Jesus Christ wants everyone to see him."

What she says she can't image is why her house was chosen for the miraculous show. Why would Christ, if he were to appear, choose a tattered screened window in the tiny Vermilion Bay community of Delcambre?

"He was born in a stable," a New Iberia woman said. "He never picks out places where the rich live, he always appears to poor people."

CHART IMAGE? - Shielding their eyes against the sun, crowds gather in Delcambre and gaze into the screen window above, trying to see an image of Christ in the screen. Last Friday, Lois Linden said she saw the image of Jesus Christ in her screen, and since then, hundreds have come to the tiny shrimp-