

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

( ) Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
HUDSON, BARRY J  
PO BOX 1089  
PORTLAND, IN 47371  
USA
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
FRME
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)  
###-##-####
4. Statement for Month/Year  
February 29, 2000
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
(X) Director ( ) 10% Owner ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
(specify below)
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  
(X) Form filed by One Reporting Person  
( ) Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock	02-28-00	G*	V 800	D	I	Spouse Cust-UGMA Son
	02-28-00	G*	V 800	D	I	Spouse Cust-UGMA Daughter
					D	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock								3,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:  
 \*Gift by reporting person and his spouse of 800 shares to each of two minor children.  
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 Barry J. Hudson (Confirming statement on file)  
 DATE  
 March 1, 2000