

FORM 3

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or  
Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\*

|         |         |          |
|---------|---------|----------|
| Connors | Robert  | R        |
| (Last)  | (First) | (Middle) |

6610 Hazelwood Avenue

(Street)

|              |         |       |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| Indianapolis | IN      | 46260 |
| (City)       | (State) | (Zip) |

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)

08/26/02

3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an Entity (Voluntary)

###-##-####

4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

First Merchants Corporation - FRME

5. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |

Senior Vice President - Operations and Technology

6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person

Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities<br>Beneficially Owned<br>(Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form:<br>Direct (D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Common Stock                       | 0   |   |  |

\* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

(Print of Type Responses)

(Over)

FORM 3 (continued)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

5. Owner -

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | ship Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|  | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |  |   |   |
|  |  |                 | Title   |  |   |   |

0

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Robert R. Connors  
 -----  
 \*\*Signature of Reporting Person

August 27, 2002  
 -----  
 Date

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.  
 See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this form, one of which must be manually signed.  
 If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

(Print of Type Responses)