

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
 BRACKEN, FRANK A
 5150 PLANTATION DRIVE
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46250
 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
 July 31, 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. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D			
COMMON STOCK					70,917.0327 (1)	D	
					966	I	Co-Executor R.B. Bracken Estate
					4,170	I	Spouse

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. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	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		
				Amount	A/D							Title and Number of Shares	
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	21.1563	07-01-00	A	V	1,000	A	01-01-06-30	Common Stock	1,000		5,600	D	

Explanation of Responses:
 (1) Includes 5.9797 shares acquired in September 1999; 5.0444 shares acquired in December 1999; 6.1285 shares acquired in March 2000; and 6.4315 shares acquired in June 2000 under the First Merchants Corporation dividend reinvestment plan.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 Frank A. Bracken (Confirming Statement on File)
 DATE
 August 1, 2000