

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 BIEBERICH, DENNIS A
 4704 W 500 N
 DECATUR, IN 46733
 USA
2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)
 AUGUST 8, 2000
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 ###-##-####
4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION
 FRME
5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other
 (specify below)
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 | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned | 3. Ownership Form: Direct(D) or Indirect(I) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| COMMON STOCK | 47,658 | D | |
| | 29,069 | I | SPOUSE |

Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct(D) or Indirect(I) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY) | 06-30-02 06-30-10 | COMMON STOCK | 3,800 21.1563 | d | |

Explanation of Responses:
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 DENNIS A. BIEBERICH
 DATE
 AUGUST 9, 2000