

FORM 8-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

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DATE OF REPORT: August 9, 1995

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FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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INDIANA  
(State of Incorporation)

0-17071  
(SEC File No.)

35-1544218  
(IRS Employer ID No.)

200 East Jackson Street  
P. O. Box 792  
Muncie, IN 47305-2814  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(317) 747-1500  
(Registrant's Telephone Number)

ITEMS 1-4. Not Applicable

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS.

On August 8, 1995, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation declared a three-for-two split of its shares of outstanding common stock. Shareholders of record on October 20, 1995, are entitled to participate in the split. The date of delivery for shares to be issued pursuant to the split is October 27, 1995.

Fractional shares will not be issued in connection with the stock split. In lieu of issuing fractional shares, the Company shall pay each shareholder otherwise entitled to a fractional share an amount in cash equal to the fraction of the average of the highest "bid" and the lowest "offered" quotations for a share on October 20, 1995 the record date, as reported by the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations System.

ITEM 6. Not Applicable

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(a) Not Applicable.

(b) Not Applicable.

(c) (99) Press Release dated August 9, 1995

ITEM 8. Not Applicable.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

DATE: August 11, 1995

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION

/s/ Larry R. Helms

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Larry R. Helms  
Senior Vice President

EXHIBIT INDEX

(99) Press Release dated August 9, 1995

August 9, 1995

For more information, contact:

JAMES L. THRASH, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, 317-747-1390

OR

DOUG HARRIS, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, INVESTOR SERVICES, 317-747-1346

FIRST MERCHANTS ANNOUNCES

3-FOR-2 STOCK SPLIT AND DIVIDEND INCREASE

First Merchants Corporation (NASDAQ-FRME) has announced the declaration of a 3-for-2 split of its shares of outstanding common stock. The split was declared by the Corporation's Board of Directors at a meeting on August 8, 1995. Shareholders of record on October 20, 1995 are entitled to participate in the split. The date of delivery for shares to be issued pursuant to the split is October 27, 1995.

At the same meeting, the Board of Directors also approved a 9.4% increase in the quarterly dividend to \$ .30 per share, payable September 20, 1995 to shareholders on record on September 6, 1995. This represents a quarterly increase of \$ .02 per share and reflects the Board's long-term intent to raise dividend levels commensurate with earnings growth and to distribute 35% - 40% of net income to shareholders. Dividends have increased in each of the last thirteen years.

The Corporation recently reported second quarter earnings of \$ .75 per share, up from \$ .70 reported for the same period last year.

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First Merchants Corporation is an east central Indiana bank holding company. Its subsidiaries include First Merchants Bank in Delaware County, Pendleton Banking Company in Madison County and First United Bank in Henry County.

First Merchants Corporation common stock is traded over-the-counter on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol "FRME" and is rated "A+" by Standard and Poor's Corporation. Quotations are carried in many daily newspapers and other financial publications. Seven brokerage firms make a market in First Merchants Corporation stock, including three Indiana-based firms: City Securities Corporation, David A. Noyes and Company, and NatCity Investments, Inc. Other market makers include Howe, Barnes & Johnson, Inc.; McDonald & Company; Herzog, Heine, Geduld, Inc.; and Sandler, O'Neill & Partners, L.P.

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