

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*

Jeffares	Robert	T.
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(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
531 Pawnee Circle		

(Street)		
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906		

(City)	(State)	(Zip)

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

05/14/02

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

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Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned
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1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	3,973	D	Jt. Spouse - Olga C.
Common Stock	1,495	D	R.T. Jeffares TTEE, R.T. Jeffares Trust U/A (03/11/80)
Common Stock	2,519	I	Spouse - Olga C.
Common Stock	1,831*	I	Adult - Stepdaughter
Common Stock	1,831*	I	Adult - Stepson

* 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)

