

JOHNSON NORMAN M  
Form 4  
October 02, 2002

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

Check box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations  
may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\*

Johnson	Norman	M
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)

480 Adams Avenue

(Street)

Glencoe	IL	60022-1865
(City)	(State)	(Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

First Merchants Corporation - FRME

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

306-38-3543

4. Statement for Month/Day/Year

09/13/02

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

6. 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) |

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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 Acquired, Disposed of,  
or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (mm/dd/yy)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	
		Code	V	Amount	Price
Common Stock			V		

\* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

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

(Print or Type Response)

(Over)

FORM 4 (continued)

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

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conver- sion or Exer- cise Price of Deriv- ative Secur- ity	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8) ----- Code V	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) ----- (A) (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) ----- Date Expira- tion Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) ----- Amount or Number of Shares
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Non-Employee  
Director Stock  
Option (Right to  
Buy)

On August 13, 2002, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation declared a stock dividend payable to all holders of record of common stock on August 30, 2002 of one share of common stock for each 20 shares of common stock outstanding to be distributed on September 13, 2002. Fractional shares were distributed in cash. Pursuant to anti-dilution provisions of First Merchants Corporation's various stock option plans options previously reported were also adjusted to reflect the stock dividend.

/s/ Larry R. Helms

October 2, 2002

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person  
Norman M. Johnson  
(Confirming Statement on File)

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.