U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FORM 4
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
() Check 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
GILCREST, ROGER W.
4011 WEST RIVERSIDE AVENUE
MUNCIE, IN 47304
2. ISSUER NAME AND TICKER OF TRACING SYMBOL
ETERST MERCHANTS CORPORATION

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION
FRME
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

- ###-##-####
- 4. Statement for Month/Year
- JULY 1996 5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
- Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 (X) Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
 DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT / FIRST MERCHANTS BANK, N.A.

1. Title of Security	j I	3. ansact te Co	ion 	Securitie or Dispos Amount				5.Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at e End of Year	6.Di ect (D)o Indi ect(r r	of Indirect ial Ownership
Common Stock	1		11					2,665	D	I	
	I							15,000	D	Self-Dire	cted IRA
								3,000	I	Spouse	
Table II Derivative			·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						19.Number	
Table II Derivativ 1.Title of Derivative Security	2.Con- version or Exer	3.	4.	5.Number rivativ rities	of De re Secu Acqui	6.Da cisa Expi	ate Exer able and iration	7.Title and Amount	of Deri vative		10. 11.Nature of Dir Indirect ect Beneficial
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con- version	3. Trans 	4.	5.Number rivativ rities	of De re Secu Acqui or Dis	6.Da cisa Expi	ate Exer able and iration	7.Title and Amount of Underlying	of Deri vative	of Deriva	Dir Indirect
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con- version or Exer cise Price of Deriva-	3. Trans 	4.	5.Number rivativ rities red(A)	of De ve Secu Acqui or Dis of(D)	6.Da cisa Expi Date Day/	ate Exer able and cration e(Month/ Year) e Expir	7.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	of Deri vative Secu rity 	of Deriva tive Securities Benefi ficially	Dir Indirect ect Beneficial (D) Ownership or Ind
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con- version or Exer cise Price of Deriva- tive	3. Trans 	4.	5.Number rivativ rities red(A)	of De re Secu Acqui or Dis of(D)	6.Da cisa Expi Date Day/ Date	ate Exer able and tration e(Month/ 'Year) e Expir	7.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number	of Deri vative Secu rity 	of Deriva tive Securities Benefi ficially Owned at	Dir Indirect ect Beneficial (D) Ownership or Ind ire
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con- version or Exer cise Price of Deriva- tive Secu-	3. Trans 	4.	5.Number rivativ rities red(A) posed o	of De re Secu Acqui or Dis of (D)	6.Da cisa Expi Date Day/ Date	ate Exer able and cration e(Month/ Year) e Expir	7.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	of Deri vative Secu rity 	of Deriva tive Securities Benefi ficially	Dir Indirect ect Beneficial (D) Ownership or Ind
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con- version or Exer cise Price of Deriva- tive Secu- rity	3. Trans 	4. action Code	5.Number rivativ rities red(A) posed o	of De re Secu Acqui or Dis of(D)	6.Da cisa Expi Date Day/ Date Exer cisa ble	ate Exer able and tration e(Month/ 'Year) e Expir	7.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	of Deri vative Secu rity 	of Deriva tive Securities Benefi ficially Owned at End of	Dir Indirect ect Beneficial (D) Ownership or Ind ire ct

Explanation of Responses: SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON ROGER W GILCREST (Confirming Statement on File) DATE August 1, 1996