FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name ar BIEBE		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]								5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)									
DIEDE										X Direct	or		10% Ov	vner					
(Last)	(Fi	(First) (Middle)					3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 06/30/2003								r (give title		Other (s below)	specify	
			4. If	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)								6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable							
(Street)]								Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person									
					-										•		•		
(City)	ty) (State) (Zip)													Form filed by More than One Reporting Person					
		Tab	le I - No	n-Deriv	ative	Se	curitio	es Ac	quired	Dis	posed (of, or Be	enefici	ally Owne	d				
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transac Date (Month/Da						r) E	A. Deemed execution Date, any Month/Day/Year)		Transaction Code (Instr.		4. Securities Acquired (A) of Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4			Benefic Owned	ies cially Following	Form (D) o	n: Direct r Indirect istr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
									Code	v	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Report Transa (Instr. 3	ction(s)			(Instr. 4)	
Common	/2003	.003			A		126	A	20.6	168 5:	1,962		D						
		Т										, or Ben ble secu		y Owned					
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deem Execution if any (Month/Da	Date,	4. Transacti Code (Ins 8)		on of		6. Date Exercisa Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year			7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number derivative Securities Beneficiall Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4)	у	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
					Code	v	(A)	(A) (D) Date			xpiration ate	Amor or Numl of Title Share							
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	0.00	08/08/1988	08/08/1988		A		0		08/08/198	38 0	8/08/1988	Common Stock	0	\$0.00	11,723		D		
Deferred Stock	0.00	08/08/1988	08/08/	1088	Д				08/08/198	8 0	8/08/1988	Common	0	\$0.00	744 61		D		

Explanation of Responses:

Units

1. Securities Beneficially Owned: 32,048. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership: Spouse

<u>Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File)</u>

07/01/2003

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** 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 is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.