

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
 BRACKEN, FRANK A.
 5150 PLANTATION DRIVE
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46250
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 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)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 (X) Director () 10% Owner () Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/D	Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
COMMON STOCK						41,098.6798	D	
COMMON STOCK						2,415	I	Spouse
COMMON STOCK						142,940	I	Co-Trustee R.B. Bracken Rev. Trust (Mother)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/D	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Non-employee director stock option (right to buy)	25.00	07-01-96	A	600	A	01-01-97 06-30-06	Common	600	1,200	D	

Explanation of Responses:
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 Frank A. Bracken (Confirming Statement on File)
 DATE
 July 31, 1996