

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*

Ault Jerry M.

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3441 South 100 West

(Street)

Wabash IN 46992

(City) (State) (Zip)

August 14, 2001

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

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

First Merchants Corporation - FRME

4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer
(Check all applicable)

- Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) 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)
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Common	47,441	D	
Common	485	I	Spouse

* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

