UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 FORM 4 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (X) Check this 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 MEDLER, RODNEY A. RURAL ROUTE #1 BOX 67 FARMLAND, IN 47340 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION FRME з. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary) ###-##-#### 4. Statement for Month/Year April 1997 5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year) 6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) () Director () 10% Owner () Officer (give title below) (X) Other (specify below)

See Explanation of Responses*

- 7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) (X) 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	2. 3. 4.Securities Ac Transaction or Disposed o Date Code V Amount		5.Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6.Dir 7.Nature of Indirect ect Beneficial Ownership (D)or Indir ect(I)
Common Stock	04-22- M 900 1997	A 10.7778 	3,600	D

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Table II Derivative	Securitites	Acquired.	Disposed of.	or Benef	icially Owned

1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-	3.	4.	5.Number	of De	6.Dat	e Exer 7	7.Title and A	Amount	8.Price	e 9.Number	10.	11.Nature of
Security	version	Trans	action	rivative	a Secu	cisab	le and	of Underly	ing	of Deri	i of Deriva	Dir	Indirect
	or Exer	1	1	rities A	Acqui	Expir	ation	Securities	,	vative	tive	ect	Beneficial
	cise	1	1	red(A) (ວr Dis	Date(Month/			Secu	Securities	(D)	Ownership
	Price of	1	1	posed of	ŕ(D)	Day/Y	ear)			rity	Benefi	or	
	Deriva-	1	1			Date	Expir			1	ficially	Ind	
	tive	1	1		A/	/ Exer-	ation	Title and	Number	1	Owned at	ire	
	Secu-	İ	Í I	Ì	j D	cisa-	Date	of Shares		Ì	End of	ct	
	rity	Date	Code	V Amount	İ	ble	İ I			Ì	Month	(I)	
Employee Stock Option	110 7778	104-22		900	١D	112-31	L 06-30 C	ົດຫຫດກ	900	1	6,667	D	
(Right to Buy)	110.7770	-97	1.1.1	1900			-99	Ommorr	1900		10,007		
(Kight to Buy)	I	1-97	1 1	I	I	1-09	1-99 1		I	I	I	1 1	
	1	1	1 1			1							

Explanation of Responses:

*Reporting person resigned as Secretary of First Merchants Corporation effective as of midnight December 31, 1996. SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON Rodney A. Medler (Confirming Statement on File) DATE April 23, 1997