WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 4
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
() 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
MONTGOMERY, TED J
305 E UNION STREET
LIBERTY, IN 47353-1212
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION
FRME
IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
###-##-####
4. Statement for Month/Year
October 31, 1998
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
(X) Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
(specify below)
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
(X) Form filed by One Reporting Person
() Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

1. Title of Security	į į	3. ansact te Co	ion 	Securities or Dispose Amount			` <i>'</i> ′I	Sec Ben Own	unt of urities eficially ed at of Month	6.Di ect (D)o Indi ect(r .r	of Indirect cial Ownership
Common Stock	1	1	1.1			I	1	11,57	8	D	IRA Accou	ınt
								24,67	6	D		
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Explanation of Responses:

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On August 11, 1998, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation authorized a 3-for-2 split of the Corporation's common stock. One additional share of common stock for each two shares held by the reporting person on the record date, October 16, 1998, was distributed October 23, 1998. Fractional shares were distributed in cash. The options previously reported were also adjusted to reflect the stock solid. reported were also adjusted to reflect the stock split. ${\tt SIGNATURE}$ OF REPORTING PERSON

Ted J. Montgomery (Confirming Statement on File)

DATE

November 2, 1998