

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
 HARTMEYER, JOHN W.
 2100 EAST WILLARD STREET
 MUNCIE, IN 47302
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)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Director (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
COMMON STOCK						1,890	D	
COMMON STOCK						1,850	I	Spouse
COMMON STOCK						1,800	I	Hartmeyer Inc.
COMMON STOCK						25,875	I	Al Pete Meats, Inc.
COMMON STOCK						4,050	I	Al Pete Enter. Inc.
COMMON STOCK						675	I	Cust., Step Son, Dean Stutz
COMMON STOCK						675	I	Cust., Step Son Wm. Stutz
COMMON STOCK						1,350	I	Cust., Grand Son, Andrew Lu tz

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)			6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	10. Director (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
				Amount	A/D	Price	Exercise Date	Expiration Date					
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)	25.00	07-01-96	A	V	600	A	01-01-97	06-30-06	Common	600	1,800	D	

Explanation of Responses:
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 John W. Hartmeyer (Confirming Statement on File)
 DATE
 July 31, 1996