UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 4 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
( ) Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
( ) Green 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
JOHNSON, NORMAN MILLER
480 ADAMS AVENUE
GLENCOE, IL 60022-1865
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
OCTOBER 1996
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
(X) Director ( ) 10% Owner ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other
(specify below)
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

|4.Securities Acquired (A)

	į	saction         Code	i II	or Dispose	d of (D	A/  D	Price	Securities   Beneficially   Owned at e   End of Month	ect  (D)c  Indi  ect(	or   .r	ial Ownership         
COMMON STOCK	10-2-  996	1 J* 	6,8 	898	<i> </i> 	A   N	I.A.*	177,581 	D 		 
	l	I			1	- 1		16,329	I	Spouse	I
		I						60,750	1	Co-Execut	or
										Estate of	Norman H. Johnson
											I
Table II Derivative				· ·					I8 Price	alg Numher	
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-  3	3.  4		  5.Number (	of De	6.Dat	e Exer 7	7.Title and Amount		: 9.Number	 
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-  3  version  T	3.  4		5.Number     rivative	of De	6.Dat	e Exer 7	7.Title and Amount of Underlying	of Deri	jof Deriva	Dir Indirect
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-  3  version  T  or Exer	3.  4		5.Number     rivative   rities A	of De   Secu   Cqui  I	6.Dat cisab Expir	e Exer 7 le and  ation	7.Title and Amount	of Deri	. of Deriva  tive	Dir Indirect    ect Beneficial
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-  3  version  T	3.  4		5.Number     rivative	of De   Secu   Cqui  I	6.Dat cisab Expir Date(	e Exer 7 le and  ation   Month/	7.Title and Amount of Underlying	of Deri  vative  Secu	jof Deriva	Dir Indirect
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-  3  version  T  or Exer    cise	3.  4		5.Number o   rivative   rities Ao   red(A) o	of De   Secu   Cqui  I r Dis  I (D)  I	6.Dat cisab Expir Date( Day/Y	e Exer 7 le and  ation   Month/  'ear)	7.Title and Amount of Underlying	of Deri	of Deriva  tive  Securities  Benefi	Dir Indirect    ect Beneficial    (D) Ownership
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-  3  version  T  or Exer    cise    Price of	3.  4		5.Number o   rivative   rities Ao   red(A) o	of De   Secu   Cqui    r Dis    (D)	6.Dat cisab Expir Date( Day/Y	e Exer 7 le and  ation   Month/	7.Title and Amount of Underlying	of Deri  vative  Secu  rity 	of Deriva  tive  Securities	Dir Indirect    ect Beneficial    (D) Ownership    or
1.Title of Derivative	2.Con-  3  version  T  or Exer    cise    Price of   Deriva-	3.  4		5.Number o   rivative   rities Ao   red(A) o	of De  0 Secu  0 cqui  1 r Dis  1 (D)  1   A/ 1	6.Dat cisab Expir Date( Day/Y Date Exer-	e Exer 7 le and  ation   Month/  Gear)    Expir	7.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	of Deri  vative  Secu  rity 	of Deriva  tive  Securities  Benefi  ficially	Dir Indirect    ect Beneficial    (D) Ownership    or      Ind
1.Title of Derivative Security	2.Con-  3  version  T  or Exer    cise    Price of   Deriva-    tive    Secu-	3.  4	tion	5.Number of rivative   rities Act   red(A) or   posed of	of De  / Secu  / Secu  / cqui    r Dis    (D)      A/     D  /	6.Dat cisab Expir Date( Day/Y Date Exer-	e Exer 7 cle and  cation   Month/  car)    Expir   ation	7.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number	of Deri  vative  Secu  rity 	of Deriva  tive  Securities  Benefi  ficially  Owned at	Dir Indirect    ect Beneficial    (D) Ownership    or    Ind     ire

|5.Amount of

|6.Dir |7.Nature of Indirect

Explanation of Responses: \*6,898 shares received in exchange for 336 shares of Randolph County Bancorp

1. Title of Security

pursuant to merger of Randolph County Bancorp with and into issuer effective October 2,

|2.

|3.

1996. SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

NORMAN M. JOHNSON (CONFIRMING STATEMENT ON FILE)

NOVEMBER 1, 1996