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HELMS LARRY R Form 4 October 02, 2002

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, DC 20549

FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

	Section 30(f) of t	he Investment (Company Ac	et of 1940
[_]	Check box if no longer subj may continue. See Instruction		16. Form	4 or Form 5 obligations
1.	Name and Address of Reportin	ig Person*		
Н∈	elms	Larry		R
(I	ast)	(First)		Middle)
49	005 North Tillotson Avenue			
		(Street)		
Mu	nncie	IN		7304
(0	 City)	(State)		(Zip)
First	: Merchants Corporation - FRM		son, if an	Entity (Voluntary)
314-4	10-0819			
4.	Statement for Month/Day/Year			
09/13	3/02			
5.	If Amendment, Date of Origin	nal (Month/Year)		
6.	Relationship of Reporting Pe (Check all applicable)	erson to Issuer		
	<pre>[_] Director [x] Officer (give title bel</pre>		[_] 10% C [_] Other	owner (specify below)

Senior Vice President, Secretary & General Counsel

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7. Individual or				applicable l	ine)			
[x] Form file				ng Person				
Table I		erivative	Securitie	es Acquired, Owned	Dispos			
			2.	3. Trans Code		4. Securities Ac Disposed of ((Instr. 3, 4	D) and 5)	(A) or
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)			Transact Date	ion (Inst	r. 8)	- Amount	(A)	Price
Common Stock						·		
* If the Form is 4(b)(v). Reminder: Report on owned dir	a separa	ate line f	for each o			see Instructi	on	
		(Print or	Type Res	sponse)		(Ove	er)	
FORM 4 (continued) Table II Derivat				sposed of,			l	
	=======			=========				
1.	2. Conversion or Exercise Price	3. Trans- action	4. Trans- action Code	1	Dat (A) Exe ed Exp	ercisable and Diration Date	of Und Securi	and Amount erlying ties . 3 and 4)Amount

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Title of I	Deriv-	Date	(Instr.	(Instr. 3,			or		
Derivative	ative	(Month/	8)	4 and 5	()	Date	Expira-		Number
Security S	Secur-	Day/				Exer-	tion		of
(Instr. 3)	ity	Year)	Code V	(A)	(D)	cisable	Date	Title	Shares

Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)

Deferred Stock

Units

On August 13, 2002, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation declared a stock dividend payable to all holders of record of common stock on August 30, 2002 of one share of common stock for each 20 shares of common stock outstanding to be distributed on September 13, 2002. Fractional shares were distributed in cash. Pursuant to anti-dilution provisions of First Merchants Corporation's various stock option plans options previously reported were also adjusted to reflect the stock dividend.

/s/ Larry R. Helms October 2, 2002

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.

See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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