

EPSTEIN EDWARD L  
 Form 4  
 May 06, 2008

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 EPSTEIN EDWARD L

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 10 SOUTH FIRST AVE.  
 (Street)  
 WALLA WALLA, WA 99362  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 BANNER CORP [BANR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 05/05/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount  | (D) | Price |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|

## Edgar Filing: EPSTEIN EDWARD L - Form 4

| Derivative Security                |                        |            | (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |       | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------|---|-------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|                                    | Code                   | V          | (A)   | (D)   |                  |                 |              |                            |
| Phantom Stock Units <sup>(1)</sup> | \$ 19.6 <sup>(2)</sup> | 05/05/2008 | A   | 2,500 | <u>(3)</u>       | <u>(3)</u>      | Common Stock | 2,500 \$                   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| EPSTEIN EDWARD L<br>10 SOUTH FIRST AVE.<br>WALLA WALLA, WA 99362 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/Edward L.  
Epstein

05/06/2008

     Signature of Reporting Person                      Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Award of phantom stock units under the Banner Corporation Long-Term Incentive Plan.
- (2) Market price on May 5, 2008. Upon vesting, phantom stock units settle in cash at the value in excess of the value as of the grant date, plus dividends.
- (3) Award vests on May 5, 2013. Each unit will be settled on the director's separation from service, at a specified time or upon 60 months of continuous service as determined by the director.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.