Rust Steven W Form 3 October 15, 2007

## FORM 3

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

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person \* Statement BANNER CORP [BANR] Rust Steven W (Month/Day/Year) 09/25/2007 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 10 SOUTH 1ST AVENUE (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director \_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting \_X\_\_ Officer Other Person (give title below) (specify below) **WALLA** Form filed by More than One **Executive Vice President** WALLA, WAÂ 99362 Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share  $125 \frac{(1)}{2}$ Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) 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.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of	5. Ownership Form of Derivative	n of (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect	

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Shares (I) (Instr. 5)

Common  $\hat{A}^{(3)}$  $\hat{A}$   $\underline{(3)}$ Â Phantom Stock Units (2) 3,500 \$ 38.54 (4) D Stock

## **Reporting Owners**

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Director 10% Owner Officer Other

10 SOUTH 1ST AVENUE WALLA WALLA, WAÂ 99362

Â Executive Vice President Â

**Signatures** 

Rust Steven W

/s/Steven W. 10/15/2007 Rust

\*\*Signature of Date

Reporting Person

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Includes direct ownership of 55 shares through Employee Stock Ownership Plan.
- (2) Award of Phantom Stock Units under the Banner Corporation Long-Term Incentive Plan.
- Award vests on July 1, 2011. Each unit will be settled upon separation from service, at a specified time or upon 60 months of continuous **(3)** service as determined by the participant.
- Market price on July 1, 2006. Upon vesting, phantom stock units settle in cash at the value in excess of the value as of the grant date, plus

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

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