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FREDS INC Form 8-K September 06, 2001

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: (Date of earliest event reported): September 6, 2001 (August 31, 2001)

FRED'S, INC. (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Tennessee 00-19288 62-0634010

(State or other jurisdiction) (Commission file number) (IRS employer of

incorporation) identification No.)

4300 New Getwell Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38118 (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (901) 365-8880

Item 5. Other Events.

1. On September 6, 2001, Fred's reported sales for the four-week and seven-week periods ended September 1, 2001. Fred's Retail sales rose 17% for the month and total sales increased 16% to \$65.8 million compared with \$56.9 million in the year-earlier period. On a comparable store basis, August sales increased 7.8% versus last year. For the first seven months of fiscal 2001, retail sales by Company stores rose 18%. Total sales for the year to date increased 17% to \$483.8 million versus \$414.3 million in the same period last year. Comparable store sales for the year-to-date period in 2001 increased 8.5% over the year-earlier level.

Fred's Inc. operates 374 discount general merchandise stores, including 27 franchised Fred's stores in the southeastern United States.

- Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.
 - (a) Financial Statements.

Not applicable.

- (b) Pro Forma Financial Information.
 - Not applicable.
- (c) Exhibits.

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Exhibit No. Description

99.2 Press Release dated September 6, 2001, announcing the report of Fred's sales for the four-week and seven-month sales ended September 1, 2001.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: September 6, 2001

FRED'S, INC.

By: /s/ Michael J. Hayes

Michael J. Hayes, Chairman and Chief

Executive Officer

Exhibit Index

Exhibit

Number Description

99.1 Press release issued by Fred's, Inc. dated September 6, 2001.