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FIRST BANCTRUST CORP  
Form 8-K  
December 24, 2002

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

December 24, 2002

-----  
Date of report (Date of earliest event reported)

First BancTrust Corporation

-----  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

000-32535

37-1406661

-----  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

206 South Central Avenue, Paris, Illinois

61944

-----  
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(217) 465-6381

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

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(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if  
changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events

The Company's press release, dated December 24, 2002, announcing the appointment of a new director, is attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1. This press release is incorporated in this Item 5 by reference to Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

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- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Exhibits  
See Exhibit Index

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SIGNATURES

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 thereunto duly authorized.

FIRST BANCTRUST CORPORATION

Date: December 24, 2002

By: /s/ Terry J. Howard

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Terry J. Howard  
President and Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Exhibit Number  
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Description  
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99.1

Press Release dated December 24, 2002