

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 DICKSON, ALAN T
 RUDDICK CORPORATION
 2000 TWO FIRST UNION CENTER
 CHARLOTTE, NC 28282
 USA
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES INC
 BSET
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
 ###-##-####
4. Statement for Month/Year
 APRIL 1997
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 (X) Director () 10% Owner () Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
7. 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	2. Transaction Date	3. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
						1875	D	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	27.75				10-01-94 3-31-2004	COMMON 500		500	D	
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	26.50				10-03-95 4-02-2005	COMMON 500		500	D	
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	25.75				10-02-96 4-02-2006	COMMON 500		500	D	
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	23.875	4-01-97	A	V	500	A 10-01-97 4-02-2007	COMMON 500	500	D	

Explanation of Responses:
 *GRANTED UNDER THE 1993 STOCK PLAN FOR NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS.
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 ALAN T DICKSON
 DATE
 4-09-97