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KROGER CO Form 8-K December 10, 2002

> UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

> > Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

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

Date of Report: December 10, 2002

THE KROGER CO. (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

An Ohio Corporation (State or other jurisdiction (Commission File of incorporation)

No. 1-303 Number)

31-0345740 (IRS Employer Number)

1014 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45201 (Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number: (513) 762-4000

Item 5. Other Events

> On December 10, 2002, the Company released its earnings for the third quarter of 2002. Attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 is the text of that release.

- Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits
 - (C) Exhibits:
 - 99.1 Earnings release for third quarter 2002.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the

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Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereto duly authorized.

THE KROGER CO.

December 10, 2002 By: (Paul Heldman)

Paul Heldman

Senior Vice President, Secretary

and General Counsel

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Exhibit

99.1 Earnings release for third quarter 2002.