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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.