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KROGER CO Form 8-K December 11, 2001

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 11, 2001

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

An Ohio Corporation An Unio Corporation No. 1-303
(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 11, 2001, the Company released its earnings for the third quarter of 2001. Attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 is the text of that release.

Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

(C) Exhibits:

99.1 Earnings release for third quarter 2001.

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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 hereto duly authorized.

THE KROGER CO.

December 11, 2001 By: (Paul Heldman)

Paul Heldman

Senior Vice President, Secretary

and General Counsel

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Exhibit

99.1 Earnings release for third quarter 2001.