## MCMULLEN W RODNEY

Form 4

December 13, 2002

SEC Form 4

## FORM 4

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

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility

Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287 Expires: January 31, 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response..... 0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\* 2. Issuer Name 4. Statement for 6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) McMullen, W. Rodney and Ticker or Trading Month/Day/Year to Issuer Symbol (Check all applicable) 12/12/2002 (Last) (First) Director \_ 10% Owner The Kroger Co. (Middle) X Officer (give title below) 1014 Vine Street KR \_ Other (specify below) 5. If Amendment, 3. I.R.S. Identification (Street) Date of Original Executive Vice Description Number of Reporting Cincinnati, OH 45202 (Month/Day/Year) President, Strategy, Planning & Person, if an entity **Finance** (voluntary) (City) (State) (Zip) 7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X 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 (Instr. 3)	2.Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transa Cod (Inst	е	4. Securities Acquired n(A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			Securities ship Beneficially Form	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
			Code	V	Amount	A/D	Price	Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	12/12/2002		Α		41,109 (1)	А	\$	344,665.197	D		
Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)											

	Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)											
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/	Code (Instr.8)	5. Number of nDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D)	6. Date Exercisable(DE) and Expiration Date(ED) (Month/Day/Yea	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr.5)	9. Number Derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followin Reporte			

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			Day/ Year)			(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)						Transad (Instr.4)
				Code	٧	А	D	DE	ED	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$14.925	12/12/2002		Α		150,000		(2)	12/12/2012	Common Stock	150,000	\$ 150,0

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- (1) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to the 2002 Long-Term Incentive Plan. The restrictions lapse three years from the date of award.
- (2) These options were granted under an option plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of the grant.
- The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans which are deemed to be "tax-conditioned plans" pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.

#### By:

/s/ W. Rodney McMullen, by Bruce M. Gack, Attorney-in-Fact

12/13/2002

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

SEC 1474 (9-02)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not

required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.