

GANNETT CO INC /DE/
 Form 4
 October 24, 2002

 OMB APPROVAL

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U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 4

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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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

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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Watson	Gary	L.
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(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
Gannett Co., Inc.	7950 Jones Branch Drive	
-----	-----	-----
	(Street)	
McLean	Virginia	22107
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(City)	(State)	(Zip)

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2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Gannett Co., Inc. ("GCI")
 =====

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

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4. Statement for Month/Day/Year

October 23, 2002
 =====

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

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6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer

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(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

President/Gannett Newspaper Division

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 (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (mm/dd/yy)	2.A Deemed Execution Date, if any (mm/dd/yy)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		Price
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	
Common Stock	10/23/02		M		5,000	A	\$23.625
Common Stock	10/23/02		S		5,000	D	\$78.10
Common Stock	To 10/02/02						
Common Stock	To 09/30/02						
Common Stock							

* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 4 (b) (v).

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

FORM 4 (continued)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conver- sion or Exer- cise Price of Deriv- ative Secur- ity	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3A. Execut ion Date, if any (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) Date Expira- tion Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) ----- Amount or Number of Shares
Stock	\$23.625	10/23/02		M	5,000	12/13/98 12/13/02	Common Stock
Options							

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) Held by the trustee of the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, The Northern Trust Company.
- (2) Held by the trustee of the Company's 401(k) Plan, Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company.
- (3) Held by the spouse and/or immediate family member of reporting person. Beneficial ownership is disclaimed.

/s/Gary L. Watson

10/24/02

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**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

** 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 provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedures.

Alternatively, this Form is permitted to be submitted to the Commission in electronic format at the option of the reporting person pursuant to rule 101(b)(4) of Regulation S-T.