

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
 Watson, Gary L.  
 Gannett Co., Inc.  
 1100 Wilson Boulevard  
 Arlington, VA 22234  
 USA
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 Gannett Co., Inc.  
 "GCI"
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
4. Statement for Month/Year  
 September 30, 1997
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
 ( ) Director ( ) 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
 (specify below)  
 President, Gannett Newspaper Division

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Director (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock	09/16/97	S	3,500 D	\$102,000.00	D	
Common Stock	to 08/31/97			5224.16	I	(1)
Common Stock	to 06/30/97			966.518	I	(2)
Common Stock				12	I	(3)
Common Stock				750	I	(4)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	10. Director (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

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 of the reporting person. Beneficial ownership is disclaimed.  
 (4) Held by the spouse of the reporting person as custodian for minor children.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 /s/ Gary L. Watson