

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

(Amendment No.)

Central Garden and Pet Co.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

153527106

(CUSIP Number)

12/31/00

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

- (1) The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No. 153527106

13G

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

CRAMER ROSENTHAL McGLYNN, LLC
13-3156718

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*

(a)
(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Incorporated in the State of New York

- NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

- BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 1,346,700

- EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 1,346,700

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,346,700

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

8.044%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

IA

*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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CUSIP No. 153527106

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Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO.

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

3697 MT. DIABLO BLVD Suite 300, Lafayette, CA 94549

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

CRAMER ROSENTHAL McGLYNN

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office, or if None, Residence:

707 Westchester Ave, White Plains, NY 10604

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

Incorporated in the State of New York

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

153527106

Item 3. If This Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a:

(a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act.

(b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act.

(c) Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Exchange Act.

(d) Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act.

(e) An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);

- (f) An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h) A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act;
- (j) Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c), check this box.

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Item 4. Ownership. 1,346,700

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 1,346,700
- (b) Percent of class: 8.04%
- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote 0 ,
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote 1,346,700 ,
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 0 ,
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 1,346,700

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

One Class of Stock 8.044%

Item 6. Ownership of More Than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

NOT APPLICABLE

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

NOT APPLICABLE

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

NOT APPLICABLE

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

NOT APPLICABLE

Item 10. Certifications.

- (a) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b):

"By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and

belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect."

(b) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c):

"By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect."

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

2/15/01

(Date)

(Signature)

MICHAEL J. MARRONE/Director of Operations

(Name/Title)

Note. Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7(b) for other parties for whom copies are to be sent.

Attention. Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute federal criminal violations (see 18 U.S.C. 1001).