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FORM 4 (continued)

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/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|-----|---|-----------------|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date |
| Phantom Stock | (1) | 1/16/03 | | A | | 2,133.173 | | (1) | (1) |
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| 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4) | | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | | | | |
| Common Stock | 2,133.173 | | \$1.56 | 2,133.173 | | D | | | |
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Explanation of Responses:

(1) This Form 4 reports the award of phantom stock pursuant to the Spartan Stores, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("Plan"). Shares of phantom stock are issuable on a one-for-one basis and are payable in cash following termination of employment in accordance with the Plan.

By: /s/ David M. Staples

February 6, 2003

 **Signature of Reporting Person

 Date

David M. Staples

*By Alex J. DeYonker

Attorney-in-Fact

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

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LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned does hereby constitute and appoint ALEX J. DEYONKER and TIMOTHY L. HORNER, or any one or more of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys and agents to do any and all acts and things and to execute and file any and all instruments that such attorneys and agents, or any of them, may consider necessary or advisable to enable the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) to comply with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), and any requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission in respect thereof, in connection with the preparation, execution and filing of any report or statement of beneficial ownership or changes in beneficial ownership of securities of SPARTAN STORES, INC. (the "Company") that the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) may be required to file pursuant to Sections 13 or 16 of the Act including, without limitation, full power and authority to sign the undersigned's name, in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity, to any report, application or statement on Form ID, Forms 3, 4 or 5, Schedules 13D or 13G, or to any amendments or any successor forms thereto, or any form or forms adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in lieu thereof or in addition thereto, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorneys and agents, or any of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

The undersigned agrees that the attorneys-in-fact named herein may rely entirely on information furnished orally or in writing by the undersigned to such attorneys-in-fact. The undersigned also agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the attorneys-in-fact against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions in respect thereof) that arise out of or are based upon any untrue statement or omission of necessary fact in the information provided by the undersigned to the attorneys-in-fact for purposes of executing, acknowledging, delivering or filing any such forms, or any amendments or any successor forms thereto, or any form or forms adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in lieu thereof or in addition thereto.

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This authorization shall be in addition to all prior authorizations to act for the undersigned with respect to securities of the Company in these matters.

Date: July 12, 2000

/s/ David M. Staples

David M. Staples