

PUCKETT KAREN A
Form 4
August 09, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
PUCKETT KAREN A

(Last) (First) (Middle)
100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE
(Street)

MONROE, LA 71203

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
08/09/2005

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
President & COO

6. 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 (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	08/09/2005		M		42,900	A	\$ 27.48
Common Stock	08/09/2005		M		20,000	A	\$ 28.03
Common Stock	08/09/2005		S		62,900	D	\$ 36.25
Common Stock					200	I	
Common Stock					436.92	I	

As Custodian For Child
By 401(k) (1)

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Common Stock	993.06	I	By ESOP <u>(2)</u>
Common Stock	15.2	I	By Stock Bonus Plan <u>(3)</u>

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

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SEC 1474
(9-02)

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)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.03	08/09/2005		M	20,000	05/21/2002 ⁽⁴⁾	05/21/2011	Common Stock	20,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 27.48	08/09/2005		M	42,900	02/24/2004 ⁽⁵⁾	02/24/2013	Common Stock	42,900
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 29.19					⁽⁶⁾	07/25/2010	Common Stock	100,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.99					02/25/2003 ⁽⁷⁾	02/25/2012	Common Stock	120,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004	02/25/2014	Common Stock	75,000

(right to
buy)

Employee
Stock

Option \$ 33.4

02/17/2005⁽⁸⁾ 02/17/2015 Common
Stock

75,0

(right to
buy)

Phantom
Stock \$ 0 ⁽⁹⁾
Units

(10) (10) Common
Stock

1,49

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PUCKETT KAREN A 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			President & COO	

Signatures

By: Kay C. Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact
08/09/2005

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) As of most recent statement available
- (2) As of most recent statement available.
- (3) As of most recent statement available.
- (4) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 5/21/02, one-third are exercisable 5/21/03, and one-third are exercisable 5/21/04.
- (5) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/24/04, one-third are exercisable 2/24/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/24/06.
- (6) One-third of the stock options are exercisable 7/25/01, one-third are exercisable 7/25/02, and remaining one-third are exercisable 7/25/03.
- (7) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/25/03, one-third are exercisable 2/25/04, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/05.
- (8) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/17/06, and one-third are exercisable 2/17/07.
- (9) Security converts on a 1-to-1 basis.
- (10) The reported phantom stock units were acquired under CTE's excess benefit plan and will be settled upon the reporting person's termination of service.

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.