

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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**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.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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(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 <sup>(4)</sup>	05/21/2011	Common Stock	20,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 27.48	08/09/2005		M	42,900	02/24/2004 <sup>(5)</sup>	02/24/2013	Common Stock	42,900
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 29.19					<sup>(6)</sup>	07/25/2010	Common Stock	100,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.99					02/25/2003 <sup>(7)</sup>	02/25/2012	Common Stock	120,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004	02/25/2014	Common Stock	75,000

