

CENTURYTEL INC  
Form 4  
August 17, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

2802 BRAMBLE

(Street)

MONROE, LA 71201

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**08/17/2005**

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)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 08/17/2005                           |  | M                              | A   | 5,300   | \$ 13.5  | 9,241 D                           |
| Common Stock                    | 08/17/2005                           |  | S                              | D   | 5,300   | \$ 35.5  | 3,941 D                           |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 0   |  | I By 401(k)                       |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 0   |  | I By ESOP                         |

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**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)       | \$ 13.5  | 08/17/2005                           |  | M                              | 5,300   | 02/24/1997 <sup>(1)</sup> 02/24/2007                     | Common Stock  | 5,300                      |
| Director Stock Option (right to buy)       | \$ 29.06   |                                      |  |                                |   | 05/10/2003 05/10/2012                                    | Common Stock  | 4,000                      |
| Director Stock Option (right to buy)       | \$ 32.18   |                                      |  |                                |   | 05/09/2004 05/09/2013                                    | Common Stock  | 6,000                      |
| Director Stock Option (right to buy)       | \$ 29.7  |                                      |  |                                |   | 05/07/2005 05/07/2014                                    | Common Stock  | 6,000                      |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)       | \$ 34.63   |                                      |  |                                |   | 02/21/2001 <sup>(2)</sup> 02/21/2010                     | Common Stock  | 30,000                     |

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Reporting Owners

Director   10% Owner   Officer   Other

HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE  
2802 BRAMBLE  
MONROE, LA 71201

X

## Signatures

By: Kay C. Buchart,  
Attorney-In-Fact

08/17/2005

\_\_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) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable on 2/24/98, and one-third are exercisable on 2/24/99.
- (2) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/21/2001, one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2002, and one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2003.

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.