

EWING R STEWART JR

Form 4

November 24, 2004

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31,
2005
Estimated average
burden hours per
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
EWING R STEWART JR

(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)
11/24/2004

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)

Ex. VP & CFO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
____X____ 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	11/24/2004		M		30,442	A	\$ 17.64	77,071.48	D	
Common Stock	11/24/2004		S		30,442	D	\$ 33.04	46,629.48	D	
Common Stock								957.36	I	By 401(k) (1)
Common Stock								16,037.38	I	By ESOP (2)
Common Stock								3,537.93	I	By PAYSOP (3)

Common Stock	16,427.95	I	By Stock Bonus Plan ⁽⁴⁾
-----------------	-----------	---	--

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.

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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 17.64	11/24/2004		M	30,442	11/22/1995 05/22/2005	Common Stock	30,
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004 ⁽⁵⁾ 02/25/2004	Common Stock	62,
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.5					02/24/1997 ⁽⁶⁾ 02/24/2007	Common Stock	59,
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63					02/21/2001 ⁽⁷⁾ 02/21/2010	Common Stock	85,
Employee Stock Option (right to	\$ 28.03					05/21/2002 ⁽⁸⁾ 05/21/2011	Common Stock	81,

buy)

Employee

Stock

Option \$ 32.99

(right to

buy)

02/25/2003⁽⁹⁾

02/25/2012

Common
Stock

81,

Employee

Stock

Option \$ 27.48

(right to

buy)

02/24/2004⁽¹⁰⁾

02/24/2013

Common
Stock

81,

Phantom

Stock

\$ 0 ⁽¹¹⁾

Units

(12)(12)Common
Stock

6,15

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
EWING R STEWART JR 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			Ex. VP & CFO	

Signatures

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

11/24/2004

__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 December 31, 2003, the most recent statement available.

(3) As of December 31, 2003, the most recent statement available.

(4) As of December 31, 2003, the most recent statement available.

(5) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/25/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/06.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) 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.

(10) 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.

(11) Security converts on a 1-to-1 basis.

Edgar Filing: EWING R STEWART JR - Form 4

- (12) 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.