CENTURYTEL INC

Form 4

March 09, 2005

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

3235-0287 Number:

OMB APPROVAL

January 31, Expires: 2005

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subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Check this box

if no longer

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 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYTEL INC. [CTL]				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer				
			CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]				(Check all applicable)				
(Last)	(First) (M	liddle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)			X Director	100	6 Owner			
2802 BRAMBLE			03/09/2005				Officer (giv		er (specify		
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original					6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
			Filed(Month/Day/Year)					Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting			
MONROE, LA 71201							Person				
(City)	(State)	Zip)	Table	e I - Non-D	erivative S	ecurit	ies Acc	quired, Disposed o	of, or Beneficia	lly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	Execution	med on Date, if Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securit on(A) or Dis (D) (Instr. 3, 4	sposed	of	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)	
Common Stock	03/09/2005			S	30,000	D	\$ 0	685	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.

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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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. Dr.Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and A	ecurities 1
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
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)	\$ 13.5					02/24/1997(1)	02/24/2007	Common Stock	40,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63					02/21/2001(2)	02/21/2010	Common Stock	30,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
	X					

Reporting Owners 2

HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE 2802 BRAMBLE MONROE, LA 71201

Signatures

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

03/09/2005

**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) 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.
- 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.

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