

HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE
 Form 4
 May 13, 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
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)
05/13/2005

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) | | 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) | Amount or Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 05/13/2005 | | A | V | 3,256 | A \$ 0 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.

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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) | 8. 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 | | | |

HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE
2802 BRAMBLE
MONROE, LA 71201

Signatures

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

05/13/2005

__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.
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