CENTURYTEL INC

Form 4

March 01, 2005

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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OMB APPROVAL

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

Check this box

Form 5
obligations
may continue.

See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

03/01/2005

03/01/2005

Stock

Stock

Stock

Stock

Common

Common

Common

1. Name and A	Address of Reporting ACEY W	Symbo	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
(1+)	(First) (I						(Check all applicable)			
(Last)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			e of Earliest Transaction h/Day/Year) 1/2005					Owner or (specify	
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original				6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
MONROE,		(Zia)	Filed(Month/Day/Year)				Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person quired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned			
	, ,	1 a				•	, <u>-</u>		•	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2 2A. Deemed Execution Date, in any (Month/Day/Year	Code	4. Securit or(A) or Dis (Instr. 3, 4)	sposed	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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	03/01/2005		M	5,000	A	\$ 26.18	29,000	D		
Common										

M

S

9,667

14,667 D

38,667

24,000

724.37

824.04

26.95

\$ 34

D

D

Ι

I

By 401(k)

By ESOP

(1)

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Common Stock	355.19	Ι	By Stock Bonus Plan (2)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	Securities		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amoun or Number of Share
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.18	03/01/2005		M		5,000	03/21/2002	03/21/2011	Common Stock	5,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.95	03/01/2005		M		9,667	03/14/2004	03/14/2013	Common Stock	9,667
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63						02/21/2001(3)	02/21/2010	Common Stock	9,400
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.03						05/21/2002(4)	05/21/2011	Common Stock	8,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 32.99						02/25/2003(5)	02/25/2012	Common Stock	18,00

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	(right to buy)					
(Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.2	08/26/2004	08/26/2013	Common Stock	50,00
(Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.34	02/25/2004(6)	02/25/2014	Common Stock	40,50
(Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 33.4	02/17/2005(7)	02/17/2015	Common Stock	40,50
S	Phantom Stock Units	\$ 0 <u>(8)</u>	<u>(9)</u>	<u>(9)</u>	Common Stock	100

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
r	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
GOFF STACEY W 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE			Sr. VP, Gen. Counsel				
MONROE, LA 71203							

Signatures

By: Kay Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact 03/01/2005

**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) As of December 31, 2003, the most recent statement available.
- (2) As of December 31, 2003, the most recent statement available.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/25/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/06.

Reporting Owners 3

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- (7) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/17/06, and one-third are exercisable 2/17/07.
- (8) Security converts on a 1-to-1 basis.
- (9) 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.