CENTURYTEL INC

Form 4

August 03, 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

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

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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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * MELVILLE C G JR			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)		
(Last) (First) (Middle) 334 WEST LIVINGSTON PLACE		(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check all applicable)		
		ON PLACE	(Month/Day/Year) 08/02/2005	_X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below) below)		
	(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		
METAIRIE, LA 70005				Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Table	e I - Non-D	erivative	Secur	ities Acqu	uired, Disposed of	f, or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securi on(A) or D (Instr. 3,	ispose 4 and (A) or	d 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	08/02/2005		M	4,000	A	\$ 29.06	15,978.17	D	
Common Stock	08/02/2005		M	4,000	A	\$ 29.7	19,978.17	D	
Common Stock	08/02/2005		S	8,000	D	\$ 35.05	11,978.17	D	

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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number on f 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 I S (
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Director Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 29.06	08/02/2005		M	4,000	05/10/2003	05/10/2012	Common Stock	4,000	
Director Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 29.7	08/02/2005		M	4,000	05/07/2005	05/07/2014	Common Stock	4,000	
Director Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.18					05/09/2004	05/09/2013	Common Stock	6,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
•	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
MELVILLE C G JR 334 WEST LIVINGSTON PLACE METAIRIE, LA 70005	X					
<u> </u>						

Signatures

By: Kay C. Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact 08/03/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

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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).

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.