

HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE
Form 4
August 16, 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)
08/16/2005

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) (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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	08/16/2005		M		34,700	A	\$ 13.5
Common Stock	08/16/2005		S		34,700	D	\$ 35.5
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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.5	08/16/2005		M	34,700	02/24/1997 ⁽¹⁾ 02/24/2007	Common Stock	34,700
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)	\$ 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

HANKS WILLIAM BRUCE
2802 BRAMBLE X
MONROE, LA 71201

Signatures

By: Kay C. Buchart, 08/16/2005
Attorney-In-Fact

__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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