

PUCKETT KAREN A
Form 4
February 22, 2006

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 *
PUCKETT KAREN A

(Last) (First) (Middle)
100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE
(Street)

MONROE, LA 71203

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
02/22/2006

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)
President & COO

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2006 | | M | | 50,000 | A | \$ 28.03 |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2006 | | S | | 50,000 | D | \$ 37.21 |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 200 |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 438.44 |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 993.06 |
| | | | | | | I | As Custodian For Child |
| | | | | | | I | By 401(k) (1) |
| | | | | | | I | By ESOP (2) |

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Common Stock 15.2 I By Stock Bonus Plan (3)

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. 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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 28.03 | 02/22/2006 | | M | 50,000 | 05/21/2002 ⁽⁴⁾ 05/21/2011 | Common Stock 50,000 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 29.19 | | | | | ⁽⁵⁾ 07/25/2010 | Common Stock 100,000 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 32.99 | | | | | 02/25/2003 ⁽⁶⁾ 02/25/2012 | Common Stock 120,000 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 27.48 | | | | | 02/24/2004 ⁽⁷⁾ 02/24/2013 | Common Stock 49,900 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 28.34 | | | | | 02/25/2004 02/25/2014 | Common Stock 75,000 |

