

MASLOWSKI MICHAEL E

Form 4

December 19, 2005

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**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

OMB APPROVAL

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
MASLOWSKI MICHAEL E

(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)
12/16/2005

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)

Sr. VP & Chief Info. Off.

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
__X__ 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)
Common Stock	12/16/2005		M	1,375.2 A	\$ 0 27,891.08	D	
Common Stock	12/16/2005		D ⁽¹⁾	1,375.2 D	\$ 32.87 26,515.88	D	
Common Stock					150.46	I	By 401(k) (2)
Common Stock					1,174.45	I	By ESOP (3)
Common Stock					373.39	I	By Stock Bonus Plan (3)

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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. 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 or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock Units	(4)	12/16/2005		A	9.9	(5) (5)	Common Stock 9
Phantom Stock Units	(4)	12/16/2005		M	1,375.2	(5) (5)	Common Stock 1,375.2
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 45.54					03/24/2000 03/24/2009	Common Stock 19
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63					02/21/2001(6) 02/21/2010	Common Stock 50
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.99					02/25/2003(7) 02/25/2012	Common Stock 81
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 27.48					02/24/2004(8) 02/24/2013	Common Stock 26
Employee Stock Option	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004 02/25/2014	Common Stock 13

(right to
buy)

Employee

Stock

Option \$ 33.4

(right to
buy)

02/17/2005⁽⁹⁾ 02/17/2015 Common Stock 40

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
MASLOWSKI MICHAEL E 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203	Sr. VP & Chief Info. Off.

Signatures

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

12/19/2005

__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) Disposition of stock back to company in exchange for cash payment due to termination of plan.
- (2) As of most recent statement available
- (3) As of most recent statement available.
- (4) Security converts on a 1-to-1 basis.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/24/04, one-third are exercisable 2/24/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/24/06.
- (9) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/17/06, and one-third are exercisable 2/17/07.

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.