

PUCKETT KAREN A

Form 4

February 22, 2006

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

OMB
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(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
__X__ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)

President & COO

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	02/22/2006		M	50,000	A \$ 28.03	123,417.74	D
Common Stock	02/22/2006		S	50,000	D \$ 37.21	73,417.74	D
Common Stock					200	I	As Custodian For Child
Common Stock					438.44	I	By 401(k) (1)
Common Stock					993.06	I	By ESOP (2)

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Common Stock	15.2	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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount Number 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 49,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004 02/25/2014	Common Stock 75,000

Employee

Stock

Option \$ 33.4
(right to
buy)

02/17/2005⁽⁸⁾ 02/17/2015Common
Stock

75,0

Employee

Stock

Option \$ 35.41
(right to
buy)

03/15/2007⁽⁹⁾ 02/20/2016Common
Stock

75,0

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PUCKETT KAREN A 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			President & COO	

Signatures

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

02/22/2006

__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 most recent statement available

(2) As of most recent statement available.

(3) As of most recent statement available.

(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 7/25/01, one-third are exercisable 7/25/02, and remaining one-third are exercisable 7/25/03.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/17/06, and one-third are exercisable 2/17/07.

(9) One-third of the options are exercisable 3/15/07, one-third are exercisable 3/15/08, and one-third are exercisable 3/15/09.

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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