

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or  
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|                                           |                                                   |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol       | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)      |
| NICHOLS FRED R                            | CENTURYTEL INC [ CTL ]                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director _____ 10% Owner                    |
| (Last) (First) (Middle)                   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) |
| 7311 HOLLYTREE DRIVE                      | 5/8/2009                                          |                                                                                 |
| (Street)                                  | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)                     |
| TYLER, TX 75703                           |                                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person          |
| (City) (State) (Zip)                      |                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person           |

| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |                |                                   |                              |   |                                                                      |            |       |                                                                                                  |                                                          |                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Title of Security<br>(Instr. 3)                                               | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. Code<br>(Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |       | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)<br>(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                                                                     | 5/8/2009       |                                   | A                            |   | 3676                                                                 | A          | \$0   | 13676                                                                                            | D                                                        |                                                       |

| Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned ( e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |                                                        |                |                                   |                           |   |                                                                                        |                                         |  |                                                                                   |                 |                                            |                                                                                                    |                                                                                  |                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)                                                                             | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. 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 |  | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |                 | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                        |                |                                   | Code                      | V |                                                                                        |                                         |  | Date Exercisable                                                                  | Expiration Date |                                            |                                                                                                    |                                                                                  |                                                        |

Explanation of Responses:

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                            | Relationships |           |         |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                                           | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| NICHOLS FRED R<br>7311 HOLLYTREE DRIVE<br>TYLER, TX 75703 | X             |           |         |       |

Signatures

Kay C. Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact

5/11/2009

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- \* 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.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.