

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 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * PERRY HARVEY P (Last) (First) (Middle) 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE (Street) MONROE, LA 71203 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Vice Chairman
3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) 1/8/2004		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. 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	1/8/2004		M		5207.4	A	\$0	52285.34	D	
Common Stock	1/8/2004		D		5207.4	D	\$32.62	47077.94	D	
Common Stock								2837.16	I	As Custodian For Children
Common Stock								0.00	I	By 401(k) (1)
Common Stock								0.00	I	By ESOP (2)
Common Stock								0.00	I	By PAYSOP (3)
Common Stock								0.00	I	By Stock Bonus Plan (4)

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	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Phantom Stock Units (5)	\$0.00 (6)	1/8/2004		M		5207.4	(6)	(6)	Common Stock	5207.40	\$0	0.00	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) As of most recent statement available
- (2) As of December 31, 2002, the most recent statement available.
- (3) As of December 31, 2002, the most recent statement available.
- (4) As of December 31, 2002, the most recent statement available.
- (5) Paid out following the reporting person's termination of employment.
- (6) Security converts on a 1-to-1 basis.

Remarks:

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PERRY HARVEY P 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203	X			Vice Chairman

Signatures

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

1/8/2004

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.