

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP
 Form 4
 March 28, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
CHANG MICHAEL M Y

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
03/24/2005

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

777 NORTH BROADWAY

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 or Price | | |
| Common Stock | 03/24/2005 | | M | | 400 A \$ 10.625 | (1) D | |
| Common Stock | 03/24/2005 | | M | | 1,200 A \$ 15.0475 | (1) D | |
| Common Stock | 03/24/2005 | | M | | 400 A \$ 16.275 | (1) D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | As custodian for children |
| | | | | | 132,944 | I | |
| | | | | | 136,000 | I | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| Common Stock | | | | | | | Spouse as custodian for children |
| Common Stock | | | | | 208,812 | I | Family Trust |

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

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.

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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Option | \$ 10.625 | 03/24/2005 | | M | 400 | 01/20/2005 | 01/20/2010 | Common Stock | 0 |
| Stock Option | \$ 15.0475 | 03/24/2005 | | M | 1,200 | 01/18/2006 ⁽²⁾ | 01/18/2011 | Common Stock | 400 |
| Stock Option | \$ 16.275 | 03/24/2005 | | M | 400 | 02/21/2004 ⁽³⁾ | 02/21/2012 | Common Stock | 1,600 |
| Stock Option | \$ 19.925 | | | | | 01/16/2004 ⁽⁴⁾ | 01/16/2013 | Common Stock | 3,800 |
| Stock Option | \$ 24.8 | | | | | 11/20/2004 ⁽⁵⁾ | 11/20/2013 | Common Stock | 11,000 |
| Stock Option | \$ 37 | | | | | 02/17/2006 ⁽⁶⁾ | 02/17/2015 | Common Stock | 3,500 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| | | | | X |

CHANG MICHAEL M Y
777 NORTH BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Signatures

Michael M.Y.
Chang

03/28/2005

**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) Includes 67.36 shares acquired through dividend reinvestment year-to-date.
- (2) The option vests in 1 annual installment beginning 1/18/06.
- (3) The option vests in 4 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/04.
- (4) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/16/04.
- (5) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 11/20/04.
- (6) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/17/06.

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.