

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP  
 Form 4  
 May 23, 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

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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, 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 \*  
**LEE PATRICK**

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)  
**777 NORTH BROADWAY**  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**05/19/2005**

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

**LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	05/19/2005		M		2,000	A	\$ 8.25
Common Stock					256,394	I	

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**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	\$ 8.25	05/19/2005		M	2,000	09/17/1999	09/17/2008	Common Stock	0
Stock Option	\$ 10.625					01/20/2001 <sup>(1)</sup>	01/20/2010	Common Stock	2,000
Stock Option	\$ 15.0475					01/18/2002 <sup>(2)</sup>	01/18/2011	Common Stock	2,000
Stock Option	\$ 16.275					02/21/2003 <sup>(3)</sup>	02/21/2012	Common Stock	2,000
Stock Option	\$ 19.925					01/16/2004 <sup>(4)</sup>	01/16/2013	Common Stock	3,800
Stock Option	\$ 24.8					11/20/2004 <sup>(5)</sup>	11/20/2013	Common Stock	11,000
Stock Option	\$ 37					02/17/2006 <sup>(6)</sup>	02/17/2015	Common Stock	3,500

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LEE PATRICK 777 NORTH BROADWAY LOS ANGELES, CA 90012		X		

## Signatures

Patrick S.D. Lee                      05/23/2005

\*\*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).

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- (1) The option is fully exercisable.
- (2) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/18/02.
- (3) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/03.
- (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.