

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

The art of spinning wool into yarn hasn't changed a whole lot over the past several hundred years. Vicky Beard of Champion will demonstrate the talent at Chase County Museum in Champion Sunday.

Beard began spinning when her children were showing 4-H sheep. She thought she ought to do something with the wool.

From start to finish, the sheep is sheared, the wool is cleaned and made into "a fluffy role." In the past Beard dyed the wool with natural dyes from plants, walnut husks and onion skins.

The wool is then spun onto the wheel. As the "leader" is pulled the wheel spins, twisting the wool into yard.

Beard then knits the yarn into clothing.

Her Ashford spinning wheel was ordered as a kit from New Zealand. Beard put the treadle wheel together herself, to learn how it works.

She will have samples of yarn and clothing items at the museum, as well as her wheel. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m.