First Invention

Bell was very curious about the world at an early age and had a great ability to find solutions to problems.

The family of his friend and neighbour, Ben Herdman, ran a flour mill. While visiting the mill, Bell noticed the slow process of dehusking the wheat grain.

At age 12, Bell built his first invention to solve this problem. He created a device with rotating paddles and nail brushes that made it much easier and quicker to separate the grain from the husks.

His device was used in the mill for several years! As a thank you, the mill’s owner, John Herdman, allowed Bell to use a small workshop at the mill to create more inventions.