

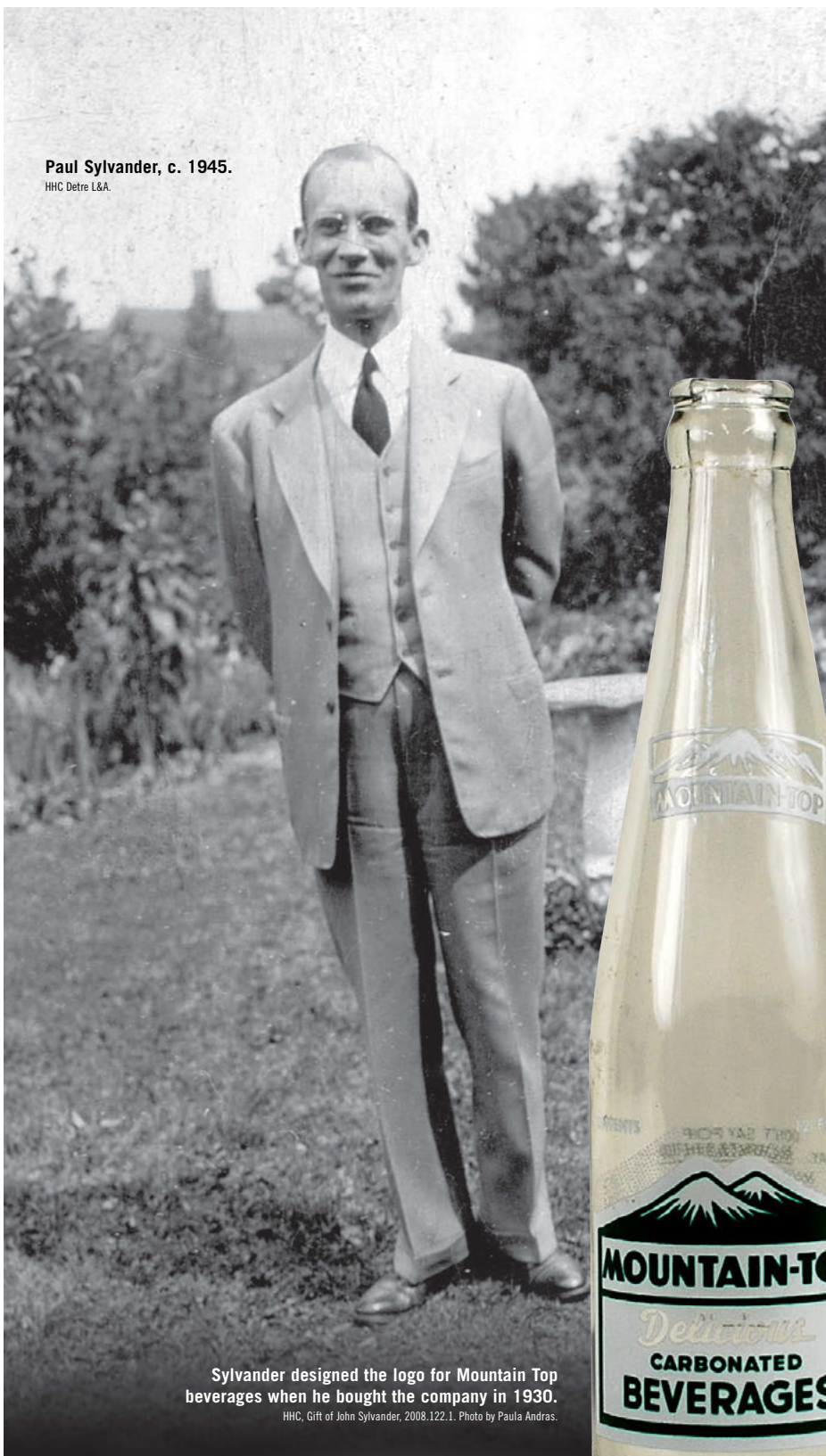
## CURATOR'S CORNER

By Emily Ruby, Curator

### Paul Sylvander

At the History Center, we like to say that we are the “people” museum. When you visit, we hope you learn about real people who have shaped our region and our world, some famous but many not. An example of the ingenuity and inventiveness that characterizes Western Pennsylvania is Paul Sylvander. He is certainly not famous, but in his 44 years he embodied the spirit of the “tinkerer”—someone who is constantly coming up with new ideas and projects.

A son of Swedish immigrants who came to the region in 1890, Sylvander worked as a draftsman for Carnegie Steel in Braddock and co-owned Mountain Top Carbonated Beverages Company in Mt. Jewett, Pa. He was instrumental in the design of the bottles, flavors, logos and even the bottle closure. Our Detre Library & Archives contains many of Sylvander's letters written in the early 1930s that show his involvement in every stage of the process of establishing the beverage company. In addition, Sylvander and several partners received numerous patents including those for improvements to window screens, a twin-pac tobacco container with a hinged cover, and a safety friction match book. One of the more interesting patents granted to him is the Add-A Bucket patented in 1943.



Paul Sylvander, c. 1945.  
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Sylvander designed the logo for Mountain Top beverages when he bought the company in 1930.

HHC, Gift of John Sylvander, 2008.122.1. Photo by Paula Andras.

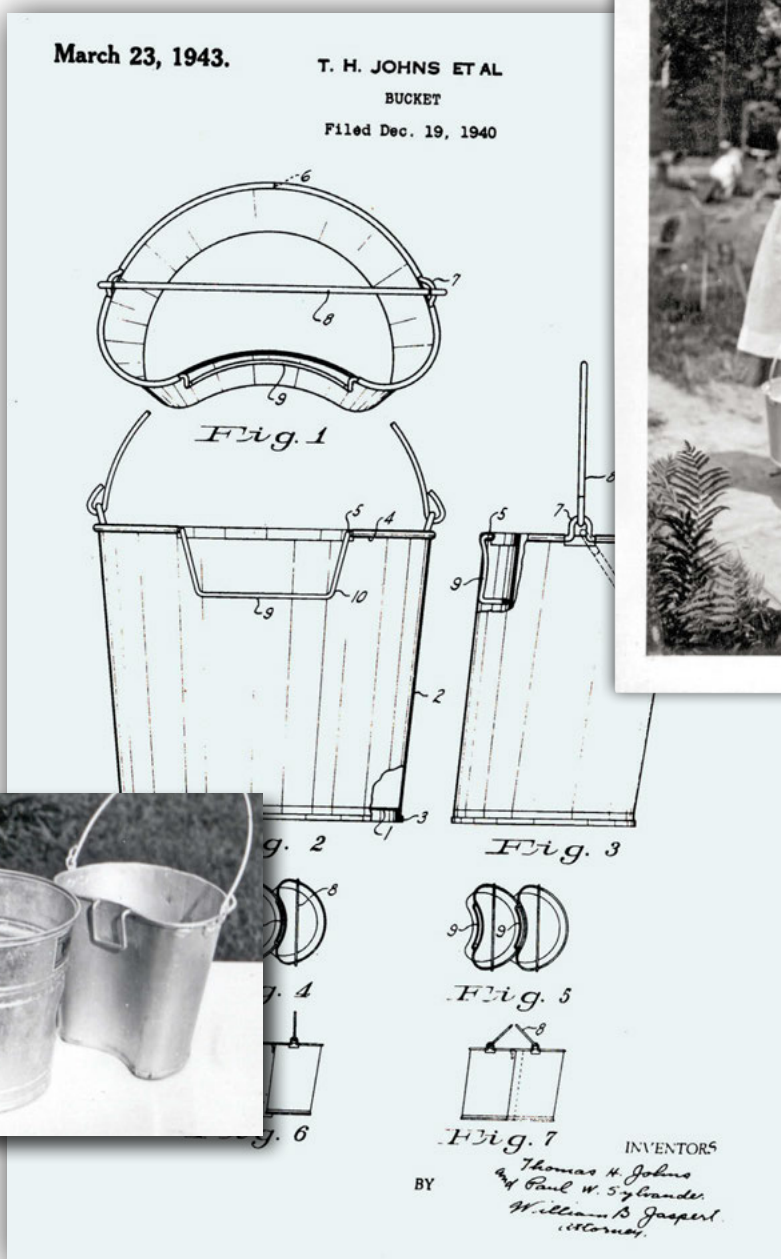
The Add-A Bucket consisted of a kidney-shaped metal bucket that could be added onto a traditional household bucket or connected to another Add-A Bucket. It differed from other split buckets in that it could be separated and used as a single unit or two could be attached to a traditional bucket or to each other.

The intention of the design was to save time and steps for the user so they would not have to carry several buckets or dump the contents of a bucket out to refill with something else. Although a great idea, the bucket never went into production due to wartime metal rationing.

The artifact collection that complements his archival collection includes a Mountain Top soda bottle with the logo he designed and several of his drafting tools from Carnegie Steel.



Patent drawing of the Add-A Bucket.  
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A woman demonstrates how to use the Add-A Bucket.  
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Prototype of the Add-A Bucket.  
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