

HEINLEIN GENEALOGY

Carl Conrad Heinlein (1904 to 1993)

Gertrude Viola Krentz Heinlein (wife, 1907 to 2002)

Edward Carl Heinlein Sr (son, 1928 to 2014)

DRUGS, GUNS FOUND NEXT DOOR TO EXPLOSION

explosion at about 6:45 p.m. Saturday.

Moon police said in a statement that a woman asked an officer Saturday night to check 1660 Charlton Heights Road because it was her parents' home and she could not reach them by phone. The officer smelled marijuana, but found Amend locking the door and took him to safety.

Police said a "concerned citizen" then told them that immediately after the house explosion next door, Amend was in his backyard cutting down what looked like marijuana plants and shoving them in garbage bags. Officers had already noticed that the backyard was surrounded by a stockade fence and a strong marijuana smell was coming from that area, police said.

On Sunday, police checking homes found evidence of a marijuana growing operation in Amend's house, so they obtained a search warrant and returned. A neighbor, Donna Arndt, told *The Times* that Amend seemed to be suffering from concussion symptoms after the explosion, but he refused to go to the hospital for treatment.

Shawn Landa, 47, who owned the destroyed house at 1656 Charlton Heights Road, was dragged from rubble in his front yard by neighbors and township police. Alan Lisica, 61, of 1654

Charlton Heights Road, was pulled from his heavily damaged home by an off-duty Moon detective, an off-duty state trooper and neighbors, Moon police said.

On Sunday, Landa was listed in serious condition at UPMC Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh while Lisica was in fair condition at the same hospital, a nursing supervisor said.

Although initial reports seemed to point to a gas leak as the culprit, Moon Fire Chief John Scott said Sunday that no cause had been determined and he confirmed a Columbia Gas spokeswoman's statement that gas lines were tested and no leaks were found.

"Something happened in that house," Scott said.

A gas leak did ignite an explosion that destroyed a Moon home in March 2005 on Bertley Ridge Drive off Beaver Grade Road. In that case, workers digging to install Internet cable ruptured a 2-inch gas line that caused a blast that critically injured Marc Rateau, then 18, and also injured his 14-year-old sister.

Scott said 30 houses were evacuated Saturday after the blast, which spurred an intense fire, but most residents were allowed back in five hours later. Three houses near the destroyed home were deemed inhabitable, he said.

A Moon firefighter suffered a sprained hand, said Scott, who added that Imperial, Coraopolis, Crescent Township, Forest Grove and Sewickley departments assisted Moon.

Arndt, who lives at 1666 Charlton Heights Road next to her father's home, said she and family members were coming home from dinner and were parking in their driveway when an explosion rocked the car.

"I just remember

crouching in the car, saying, 'What was that?'" she said while watching workers use construction equipment to clear the remnants of her neighbor's home.

Arndt said she heard someone screaming, "Help me! Help me!" be-

neath the rubble and that turned out to be Landa. "He just looked totally dazed," she said.

David Plitt, 15, said he was talking to his mother when the blast shook their house a few blocks away on George Street. "We just felt the blast and it was

just sickening," said Plitt, a sophomore at Moon Area High School.

At first, Plitt said he thought his father, who was outside using power tools, had an accident. Plitt said he went outside and immediately smelled the "overpowering" odor

of natural gas.

After going to the blast site, Plitt said he helped elderly residents away from the fire in case there was another explosion while other neighbors tended to the victims.

"The house," he said, "it was just gone."