The car bombing death here in decade

7th Car Bombing Death Here in Decade

By Marjorie Mandel

John Paul Spica was the seventh St. Louisan to die in an automobile bombing in this decade. All of those remain unsolved — as do many of the other car bombings that resulted in injury but not death.

According to federal crime statistics, Missouri has one of the highest bombing rates in the nation. In the fall of 1977, two persons were injured seriously when their cars exploded.

On April 11, in the most recent incident, Louis J. Ritter, 63, a Clarkson Valley executive, was burned severely when his car exploded into flames as he neared his residence at 149 Chippenham Drive. Ritter was president of American Water Treatment Inc., 7116 Oakland Avenue.

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