

Alleged killer admits sixth slaying

OSAKA — A man arrested earlier this year on suspicion of killing five people has admitted slaying a pachinko shop employee four years ago, police said Wednesday.

Police said that during their investigations, Yoshinori Ueda, 39, who professes to be a dog trainer, admitted killing Toyohito Kitahara, a resident of Gotemba, Shizuoka Prefecture, in mid-1990.

Ueda has been charged with four slayings in Osaka, and police have served him with another warrant in connection with a fifth killing.

Ueda buried his victims, who were believed to have had connections with him through his dog-training work, in a rural district of Shiojiri, Nagano Prefecture.

Osaka police said they have been questioning Ueda for details on the disappearance of Kitahara, 18. Ueda claimed he had forgotten where Kitahara's body is buried, police said.

Before his disappearance, Kitahara withdrew more than ¥1 million from his bank account. Police suspect he was murdered for the money, investigators said.

Police said Kitahara became acquainted with Ueda in late May or early June 1990.

One acquaintance said Ueda invited Kitahara to go for a bite to eat before Kitahara disappeared. A female acquaintance said after Kitahara vanished that a man called her home and said Ki-

tahara "would not be able to return home."

Ueda, who lived in Gotemba from early 1989, was arrested in August 1990 on suspicion of violating the Swords and Handguns Control Law. After being convicted of the charge and serving part of a 15-month prison sentence, he was released. He moved to Osaka in the summer of 1991.

Ueda was arrested in February on suspicion of killing an Osaka housewife over disagreements regarding her investment in his dog-training center business.

On May 20, police served Ueda with another warrant, in the slaying of Hiroshi Seto, 23, of Sakai, Osaka Prefecture. Seto had held a number of part-time jobs.