



This New Guinea native displays his artwork for former Tucsonian Ronald Perry. Perry takes periodic trips to the interior of New Guinea collecting native art mainly for museums.

Perry

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in New Guinea in which three natives were put on trial for cannibalism. "The case was under Queensland (Australia) jurisdiction because it happened in the territory. Well, there's no law in Queensland against cannibalism. There's a law against murder, but the three natives didn't kill the guy, they just ate him," Perry said.

The natives in the Maprik area worship the giant yams, Perry said. "Some of these yams get to be seven feet high and weigh 120 pounds. I've personally seen one that was six feet tall and weighed 80 pounds," he said.

He said the families did not eat the yams they grow, but had to trade for other families' yams. The natives decorate the big yams and worship them, he said. "They put neckties and bird of paradise feathers on them and even get brassieres from the trading post to decorate them," Perry said.

He said he keeps about 25 per cent of the artifacts for his

personal collection. "We have about 3,000 pieces now," he said.

His wife accompanies him on an expedition to New Guinea about once a year, Perry said. "I'd move there tomorrow if she'd let me."

An exhibition of many of Perry's New Guinea artifacts is offered by the American West Art Gallery, 81 N. Park Ave. It will last until March 20.