Like so many other modern seekers of adventure, Mr.Skolle wanted to do

something difficult which had never been done before by a Western, educated man. He wanted to journey from the Taoudeni saltpans, where the temperature rises to 127°F in the shade (...) to Timbuctoo, 500 miles due south on the edge of the Sudan and the Niger River. And he wanted to do it as a member of the annual salt caravan. (...) One day the azalai marched from 8 in the morning until

Books of The Times.

BY ORVILLE PRESCOT

ingress and air strips. But these manifesta tions of modern civilization are few and most of the Sahara is just what it always was a vast waste of sand and gravel, boulders and sorth, mountains and gravel, boulders and fly across it comfortably, and possible to cross who remember which was discussed here two praces ago, know that an automobile. Those bearst watches," which was discussed here two praces ago, know that an automobile to be afreenous and theiry to be dangerous. But such a trip is luxury itself compared with att mach is December of 1904 by John Skolle and described in his book, "Assait.""

American citizen, a painter, schooltesche and restless wanderer. In 1952 he made a trip to Tamanraset in the Hoggar region of the mid-Sahara and lived for a short which as a gruest of the veiled Tuareg, the "block men" of the Sahara, the aristocratic, nombile predatory habits and fighting provess made them the terror of the Sahara until a generation ago. Mr. Skolle's sound of them, which is the first section of this book, is less comletes interesting than several others that have been published in recent year.

But when Ma mit and Tortuous

1964 journey "Asalaj" comes to life with bang. Like so many other modern secker of adventure Mr. Skole wanted to do some thing difficult which had never been done be fore by a Western, educated man. He wanted to journey from the Tacudeni salt pans, where the temperature rises to 127 degrees in the bade for mine months in the year, to Timbuctoo, 800 miles due south on the edge of the Rudan and the Niger River. And he wanted caravan.

Just getting to the Taondeni was difficuanough. Mr. Skolie managed it through it and of a Prench scientific expedition and of an Arab merchani who supplied him wit an trab merchani who supplied him wit an trab merchani who any pilot and the slabs of the Sudan, virtual slaves, and the slabs of the Sudan virtual slaves, and the slabs of the Sudan virtual slaves, and the slabs the Sudan virtual slaves, and the slab the slaves as a so dangerous that they are paid they bring to Timbuctoo, four slabs to a cared. Until 1940 the sait caravan, the assid, numbered as many as 20,000 carnels, the great techn against raiders. The caravan Mr. Skolle joined with his gosmier and four cannels and Mr. Skolle and his gosmier trusted them as good as a homing pigeors. Mr. Skolle way by the stars and by an institute intensition of the others on a diet of green tea, rany rice and sand. He endured the collar trust of the same day and the continual virtue of the contensite winds. He lock

Aunt. By John Skolle, 272 pages, Harmen a



John Skolle and friend

"In the contemptions meers of camels." or four parallel files of thirty proceeded in three or four parallel files of thirty of forty and Each camel had a rope tied to its lower faw the other and of the rope being attached to the proceding animal's tail. • • Our daily morning, to ride for four hours in the middle ward evening and to mount again until we topped for the night, while walking, very aned for the angent three hours to the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the angent statch and the same the singuro of the statch the stands in ware mounted." See

Exhaustion and Death

but by the necessity of finding water and forage for the necessity of finding water and forage for the camels. One day the oscion marched from 8 in the morning until 11 at enhancing the finding of the second state of adequate food and rest. Camels died of a adequate food and rest. Mostly the land was empty, just sand and gravel. They passed one tiny village with a well, but not a single tree. As they approached the Niger they saw wild game, gaselles and antelope, jackals

"Joint Skolle's description of his journey with the Arab camel men is the best kind of personal adventure reprints. His sympathetic admiration for the camel drivers-ignorant, tent to follow their dangerous profession acording to immemorial ways-resembles that of the narrator of John Hersey's "A Single pebble" for the 'trackers' who pulled junks up the Yangta.

tains this high level. When Mr. Skolle takes lime out to describe desert cities or the raids and tribal wars that persisted in the Sahara to the day before yesterday he writes supericial, mediocre journalism, "Arala" is an neven performance obviously padded out to ake a book. But its account of the scalai self is fine and worth the price of admission

11 at night without food or rest. Camels died of exhaustion and men faded away from lack of adequate food and rest. Mostly the land was empty, just sand and gravel.