



Icelandic River near Engihlid.

tion to the family's larder.

With its many contributions to the settlers' welfare, the river also brought disaster through its numerous floodings. Downstream from the Geysir area past Gilsá, the river banks were much narrower and the channel deeper, but much narrower than it was further west. This created a bottleneck in the flow whenever a large volume of water drained into the river.

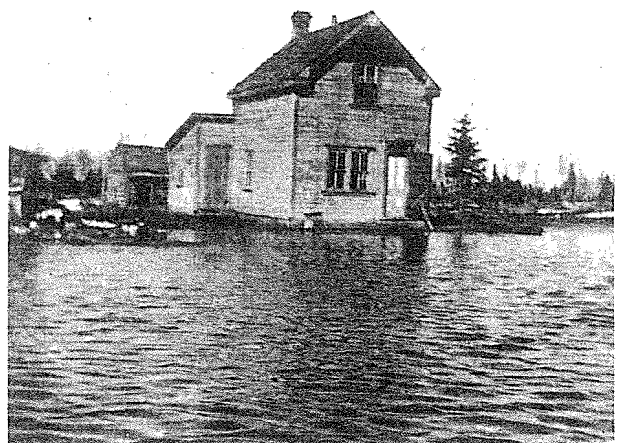
In the spring to early summer of 1896, an extensive flood occurred in the Geysir area. At that time, people from Framnes with their livestock and personal belongings moved to Geysir, the home of Páll Halldorsson, where they stayed for six weeks. A daily trip was made back to Framnes to attend a flock of chickens, which were marooned on the loft of a building, and to take care of the daily catch of fish in the nets in the river.

The Pálssons at Kjarna were subjected to a similar hardship. They were forced to flee from their home and move to Sigurður Nordal's at Norðtunga. They also waited six weeks before returning to their home on the river bank. Páll from Kjarna returned home frequently to gather the catch of fish from the nets he had set at the north bend of the river near the old Geysir schoolhouse.

In spite of the flood, the school term continued. Many of the children from along the Geysir road and from farther up the river waded through water and muck to assemble at the home of their teacher, Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason, from where they all went down the river to school on a rowboat. During the school day, the children would watch through the window of the school as another and yet another fish was caught in the net. The teacher had a hard time keeping the children at their work.



Hliðarendi



Flood of 1927

Fljotsdal.