



—Staff Photos by Doug Campbell

The F. A. Bendtsen home is reminiscent of a grand and elegant bygone era.

By **MAGGIE KENNEDY**
Staff Writer

ALL THOSE BIG, old, magnificent-looking houses on Swiss Avenue you always wondered what they looked like on the inside? Well, six of them are going to be open to the public Saturday and Sunday.

The Historic Preservation League, Inc., the group trying to preserve that area of East Dallas, is sponsoring the home tour from 1 to 5 p.m. both days.

Themed "Swiss Avenue . . . Future of the Past," the houses on the tour include the F. A. Bendtsen home, 4949 Swiss; the Robert E. Courtin home,

5205 Swiss; the John Ehrhardt home, 5731 Swiss; the Tom Vastine home, 5736 Swiss; the Raymond Courtin home, 5928 Swiss, and the John A. Rawlins home, 6006 Swiss.

Also included in the league's first annual tour will be an art show and an antique car display in the driveways of the homes by the Antique Automobile Club of America, Dallas Chapter.

"All of the homes on the tour are part of the area the Texas State Historical Survey Committee suggested be designated a historical district," said Mrs. Raymond Courtin, president of the league, whose home is on the tour. She noted that the City of Dallas is

presently considering this designation. "It's hopeful that the city will institute the historic zoning classification," she added, explaining that the advantages of historic zoning are numerous.

For example, cities such as Boston, Columbus, Ohio, Santa Barbara, Georgetown in Washington, D.C., and Savannah, Ga., have found that property values have risen as a result of historic zoning," Mrs. Courtin said.

The Bendtsen house, built in 1918, was occupied by the W. W. Caruth family until 1940 and the wedding of Mattie Caruth and D. Harold Byrd took place there. Bought by the Bendtsens in 1940.

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