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Snow Fest '92 expected to dazzle 100,000 spectators

Frankenmuth, Michigan—
Later this month Zehnder's of Frankenmuth will host an exhibit of rare art that will never be seen again. The canvass: Zehnder's parking lot. The medium: 256 tons of snow. It looks as though Mother Nature will cooperate with Zehnder's of Frankenmuth, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, McClelland Properties,

and the Frankenmuth Brewery in providing the ingredients for one of the world's largest snow sculpting extravaganzas, Zehnder's Snow Fest '92, Jan. 30 - Feb. 2. The four major sponsors of the Zehnder's Snow Fest '92 are gearing up for the event, which is expected to draw an estimated 100,000 visitors to the Bavarian town of Frankenmuth.

Zehnder's will host more than 20 teams of artists from the United States and abroad, including nationally and internationally-ranked snow sculpting teams. Zehnder's Snow Fest '92 is the Michigan Snow Sculpting Championship, nationally and internationally sanctioned, and supervised under the direction of the United States and Michigan State Snow Sculpting Associations. The winning team will represent Michigan in January 1993 at the Championship Competition of the Snow Sculpting Association of the United States of America in Milwaukee, and will have the opportunity to compete internationally.

Snow Fest '92 spectators will be delighted by the variety and creativity of artists' sculptures, which will range

from the familiar to the surreal. Each awe-inspiring sculpture will be crafted from six tons of packed snow, and will be approximately 10 feet tall. Members of the American Culinary Federation will also create dazzling ice sculptures from 440-pound blocks of ice. These sculptures will be displayed on Zehnder's front porch, and areas adjacent to various storefronts on Main Street.

Three-member sculpting teams will begin sculpting on the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 30, and will work 12-hour days through Saturday, Feb. 1, to create snow sculptures that are judged on creativity, technique and message. Artists use instruments ranging from machetes to carving knives to chain saws -- depending on the weather -- to create the sculptures. Final judging for Snow Fest '92 will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2. Event-goers will also have an opportunity to choose the "People's Choice Award" between noon Saturday and noon Sunday.

The 1,300-seat Zehnder's Restaurant will conduct "business as usual" during Snow Fest '92. Zehnder's will prepare for the crowd by stocking up on its delicious chicken, stuffing, fresh stollen bread and more for its world-renowned family-style chicken dinners. An outdoor "warm-up" tent with hot chocolate and entertainment will also be available to take the "chill" off.

Snow Fest '92 offers something for those who prefer the ambiance of the great indoors, as well. Zehnder's presents "Snow Ball" on Friday, Jan. 31, featuring the acclaimed musical talents of Brass Express. Cost for Snow Ball is \$10 per person, and

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ICE ARTISTRY— Snow sculptures will range in style from the familiar to the surreal. Each will be crafted from six tons of snow.