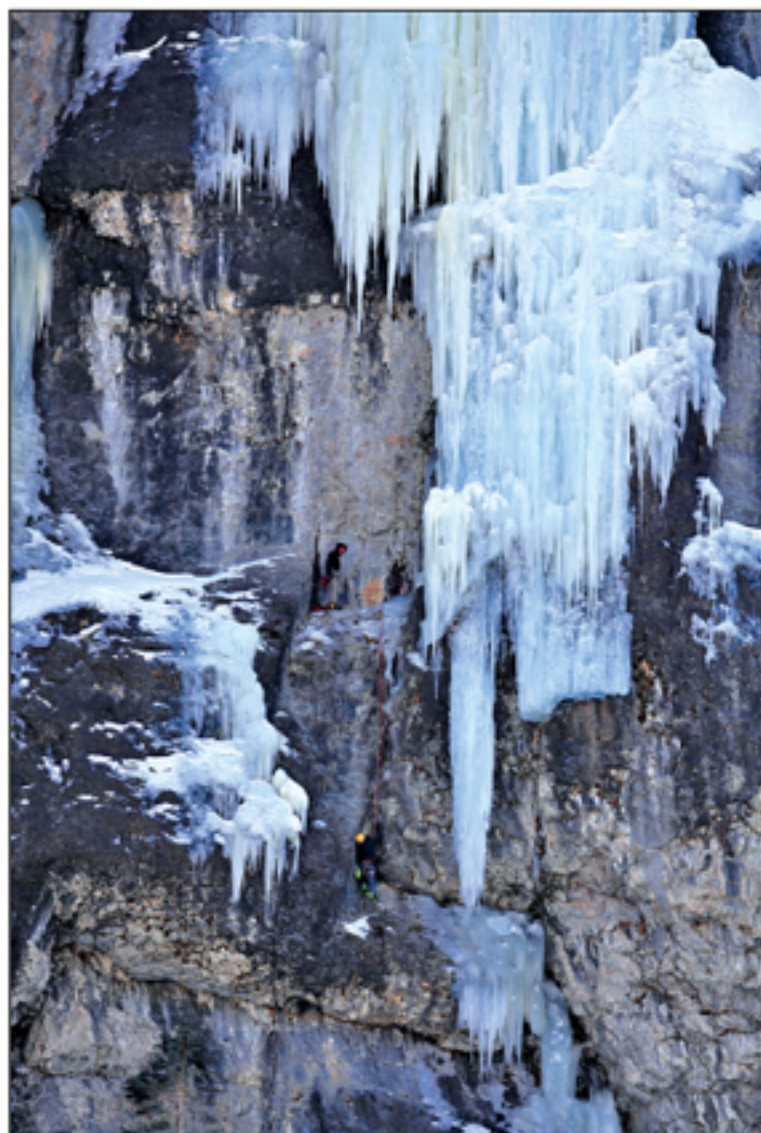


# Cold Blooded

by Steve Eginore

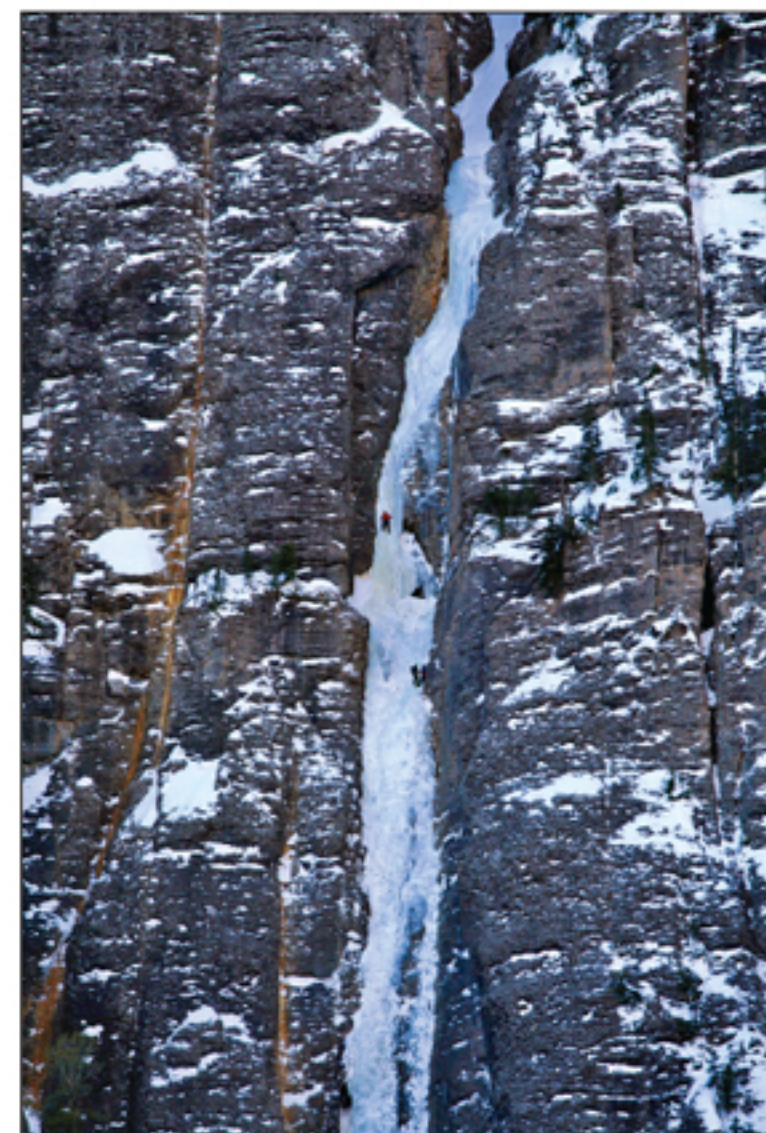
A generation riddled with lycra tights and sunny, bolt-to-bolt rock routes, American climbing in the 1980s was awkwardly saturated in a flashy, fashion-hungry sports scene. While folks squabbled over grades and ratings of 50-foot routes, a renaissance was taking place in the tiny mountain town of Ouray. Who knew? Clad in wool and using bare-bones equipment barely fit for outdoor use, a small group of climbers were quietly adding to the list of the most classic routes in the United States. With the advent of modern, user-friendly gear, ice climbing has evolved into a full blown pursuit of its own. Today, Ouray stands out as one of the premier ice climbing destinations in the world ... thanks to a few guys with beards and flannel shirts. Here's a look:



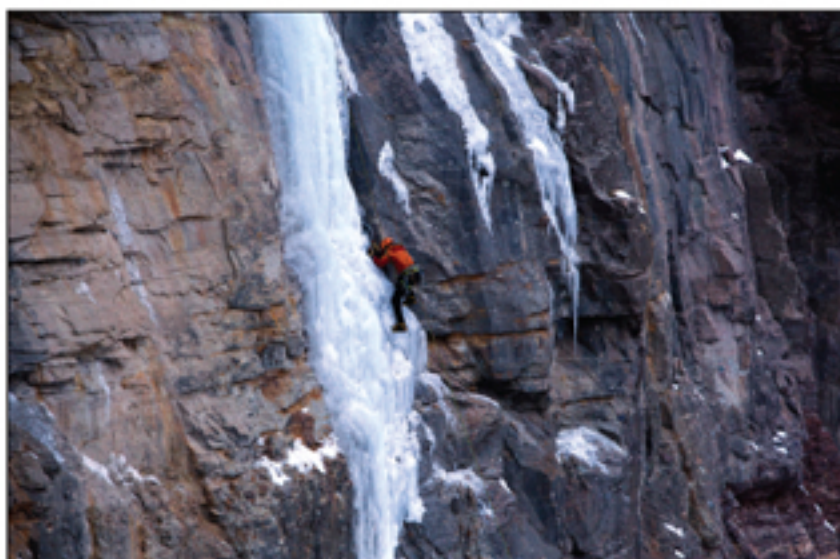
A testpiece of skill and endurance, The Talisman, shown here, is one of the San Juan's most challenging winter ascents.



Tools of the trade.



Climbers ascend The Ribbon, a classic outing in the mountains above Ouray.



Frozen waterfalls galore.



A climber hones his skills with a top-rope at the Ice Park.



On-lookers gaze into Box Canyon, home of the Ouray Ice Park.



The Camp Bird area has become one of the most popular venues for ice climbing near Ouray.