

Designer celebrates with ride

By Roberta Donnor
Chronicle staff

Rob Klengler cycled through Omak recently during his 4,000-mile bicycle excursion from Marblemount to Greenwich, N.Y., landing at the Omak Visitor Information Center for a pit stop.

The trip began from a competition to design a master plan for a new city in China.

"It's for a quarter of a million people that they're just going to build," said Klengler of the Chinese plan to build from scratch.

A team of three — architect Robert Edson Swain, graphic designer Geoff Casey and project manager/economic development planner Klengler — won an \$85,000 first place prize for their Chinese city design.

Prize money will reimburse expenses of printing, hiring in-



Chronicle photo by Roberta Donnor
Rob Klengler rides the country

terpreters, flying to China for a week and other expenses, and whatever is left the trio will split, he said.

Klengler celebrated the win with traveling plans and purchase of a bike to carry 100 pounds.

"It has everything," includ-

ing tent, down sleeping bag, supplies and water, he said.

He said he'd never bicycled more than a two-day stretch before. The endeavor will take him over several mountain passes and take about two months to complete, he expects.

Purpose for the trip — other than to have fun — is to get a sense of how people think things are going in America and the world, he said.

"Most often it ends up being related to politics," Klengler said, recalling a couple from Canada who were comparing the two systems.

Klengler plans to post continuous information from the trip to his Web site, <http://coachrob.blogs.com>.

After reaching Greenwich, he plans to work at a monastery for six weeks, then visit friends and relatives on the coasts of Rhode Island and Boston, Mass.