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Award of a contract for construction of 7.557 miles of roads on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Gila and Navajo Counties, Ariz., to Bentson Contracting Company of Phoenix was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Bentson's bid of $185,330.60 was the lowest of thirteen received. The others ranged from $193,784 to $315,590.

This is the first section of the planned 26-mile road from Fort Apache to U. S. 60 which leads to Globe and Phoenix. Its construction will stimulate further development of the reservation for commercial trade as well as recreation.

Upon completion of the entire road from Fort Apache to U. S. 60, it will be turned over to the Arizona Highway Department for maintenance.

The project will involve 40,921 cubic yards of unclassified excavation, 37,600 cubic yards of selected borrow base course, 28,263 tons of crushed gravel base course, 1,294 linear feet of corrugated galvanized sheet metal culvert pipe, and 79,800 linear feet of barbed wire fence.