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Award of a $309,000 contract for the construction of a gymnasium at the Cherokee Indian School operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Cherokee, North Carolina was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The new gymnasium, to contain 14,000 square feet of floor space, will replace an old wooden structure built in 1938. The gym will be used for the school athletic program, the Annual Cherokee Fair, and other activities of the school. The Cherokee Indian School has a present enrollment of approximately five hundred pupils. Cherokee is at the main North Carolina entrance to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

The successful low bidder was William B. Dillard, of Silva, North Carolina. Other bids ranging from $360,000 to $382,188 were received.