Creation of the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve Timeline

1940s - Librarian Anna Davis and the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution conceived the original idea to establish a poppy park.

1940s-1970s – Artist Jane S. Pinheiro (1907-1978) and a small band of conservationists continued to advocate for a poppy park.

1963 - Jane S. Pinheiro, together with members of the Lancaster Woman's Club including Dorothy Bolt, established a wildflower information center for Antelope Valley visitors during the spring in a rented building on Sierra Highway. The center featured Jane Pinheiro's paintings, live wildflowers in small containers, and directions to the best wildflower locations. Due to its popularity, the Wildflower Center moved to a large building on the old fairgrounds on Avenue I, where the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce paid the rent and expenses and the Lancaster Woman's Club provided staffing.

June 19, 1970 – Frederick A. Meyer, Supervisor of the Environmental Resources Section of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, wrote a *Proposal for Poppy Reserves*. The proposal recommended that, "the Department plan to acquire an area of desert land in the Antelope Butte-Fairmont Butte area of the south-central Antelope Valley, located in northwestern Los Angeles County. Some of the most consistent and dependable displays of massed poppy blossoms are in this location. An area of some 600 acres would be an absolute minimum for acquisition; whereas any amount up to around 7, 000 acres would be worthwhile." Meyer also suggested that, "if the Garden Clubs or any other organizations have funds which they desire to contribute toward a wildflower project, it be donated toward acquisition in this project area."

Fall 1970 – The Lancaster Woman's Club voted to create an ad hoc committee, named the Wildflower Preservation Committee, for the purpose of purchasing some of Jane S. Pinheiro's wildflower paintings and to raise funds to assist the California State Parks Foundation in acquiring land for a park.

Dorothy A. Bolt – (7/14/1913 – 12/22/2012) Dorothy served many years on the Wildflower Preservation Foundation. She was the moving force behind securing the Jane S. Pinheiro paintings and raising funds to purchase land for the AVCPR.

1970-1980 – The Wildflower Preservation Committee received donations from other organizations nationwide such as woman's clubs and youth groups and from memorial, birthday, and anniversary gifts. They sold $100 memberships in the Century Club, "I Gave to Save" decals, and Quail posters. Additionally, school children statewide raised $18,000 through the "Pennies for Poppies" program, which was matched by the Bank of America Foundation. The Lancaster Woman's Club contributed about $10,000, much of it coming from the operation of the Wildflower Center. By 1980, the Wildflower Preservation Committee had donated $36,000 to the California State Parks Foundation for the purchase of land, was instrumental in securing a large parcel of land as a gift and secured another parcel of land at a very favorable price. The Wildflower Preservation Committee also spent $5,852 to purchase 151 Jane S. Pinheiro paintings, which they donated to State Parks.

Wildflower Preservation Committee officers from 1971-1976:

- Vernon and Augusta Thompson, Co-Chairmen 1973-1976
- Adelaide Traylor, Chairman 1972- 1973

- Dorothy Bolt, Chairman 1971-1972
- Jane Pinheiro, Vice Chairman 1975- 1976
- Ann Ellison, Vice Chairman 1971-1972
- Jean Stone, Secretary 1971-1976
- Eva Savell, Financial Secretary 1971-1976
- Lillian Kasson, Permanent Committee Member
- Paul and Ada Scharf, Painting Collection
- Gladys Cunningham, Schools
- Milton Stark, Photography
- Beverly Roths, Publicity

January 1, 1974 – By January 1, 1974, the California State Parks Foundation's Poppy Park Campaign had raised $125,000. The goal of the fundraising campaign was to raise $300,000 which would be matched with State or Federal funds so that the Foundation could purchase 1000 or more acres of land to establish the Poppy Reserve. (The State Parks Foundation eventually raised a total of about $350,000.)

1974 – The State Department of Parks and Recreation created the Poppy Preserve State Projects Citizens Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee was to make recommendations and provide information to the Director of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation regarding preservation and protection of rare and endangered plant and animal species at the future Poppy Reserve. The first meeting was held August 2, 1974, in the Lancaster Woman's Clubhouse. Jane Pinheiro was elected Chairman of the committee and served in this capacity until her death. Committee members included Dorothy Bolt, Jane Pinheiro, Milt Stark, Augusta and Vern Thompson, Grace Pickus and John and Nierida Henderson.

December 1974 – The first parcel for the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve was donated to the California State Parks Foundation.

1976-1977 – Donations and contributions from organizations, corporations, and individuals, together with state and federal funds made possible the acquisition of 1358.49 acres of land by the State Parks Foundation, which the Foundation donated to State Parks for the Poppy Reserve.

April 24, 1976 – A dedication ceremony (and U.S. Bicentennial event) was held on the future site of the Poppy Reserve. The State Parks Foundation ceremonially donated the land the State. During the ceremony it was announced that the Interpretive Center to be built on the Reserve would be called The Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center and would house the paintings purchased and donated by the Wildflower Preservation Committee.

July 1976 – The park received its official name and classification from the State Park and Recreation Commission: Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve State Natural Reserve.

1977-1981 – The State of California purchased 339.25 acres of land for State Parks for the Poppy Reserve.

October 1979 – the *Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve Resource Management Plan, General Development Plan, and Environmental Impact Report* was approved.

1989 – PRMDIA donates the herbarium to the Jane S. Pinheiro Visitor Center.

February 1981 – Planning for the Jane S. Pinheiro Visitor Center building and exhibits starts.

1982 – PRMDIA incorporated

April 17, 1982 – A dedication ceremony is held for the completed Jane S. Pinheiro Visitor Center structure. The exhibits were not completed yet. The Jane S. Pinheiro painting collection was exhibited on temporary easels.

When were the exhibits installed?

June 1993 – Planning begins for the AVCPR entrance station. Construction started in December 1993. (completed when?? By 1994??)

1995-2003 – The Wildflower Preservation Foundation donated 33.05 acres of land for the Poppy Reserve.

1995 – State Parks and PRMDIA renovate the Jane S. Pinheiro Visitor Center, moving some walls and adding the theater, new cabinets, and a sales desk.

1997 – PRMDIA donates $15,000 (CSPF contributes??) for creation of a diorama for the visitor center.

March? 1999 – The diorama is installed in the Jane S. Pinheiro Visitor Center.

Some time between 1994 and 2002 – The overflow parking area is added.

2007 – Wind turbine removed after the turbine broke down and the blades were destroyed by the wind.

Between 2009 and 2002 – The district office complex is created south of the maintenance yard.

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