

The Story of 'Lil Chino

by Bill Connolly



My father, Edward T. Connolly (Chino), built this horseless carriage for my mother Anna Mae, many years ago, before I was born. In this picture are my grandparents and my uncle taking it for a ride. My father passed away when I was only 7 years old.

My wife and I live in Fun-N-Sun RV Resort, a 55+ community, in San Benito, Texas. Everyone drives a golf cart to all the activities in the resort. In fact many residents own two carts. I have been refurbishing and customizing golf carts for the past 10+ years as a hobby. Four months ago, in June of 2022, I got an idea.

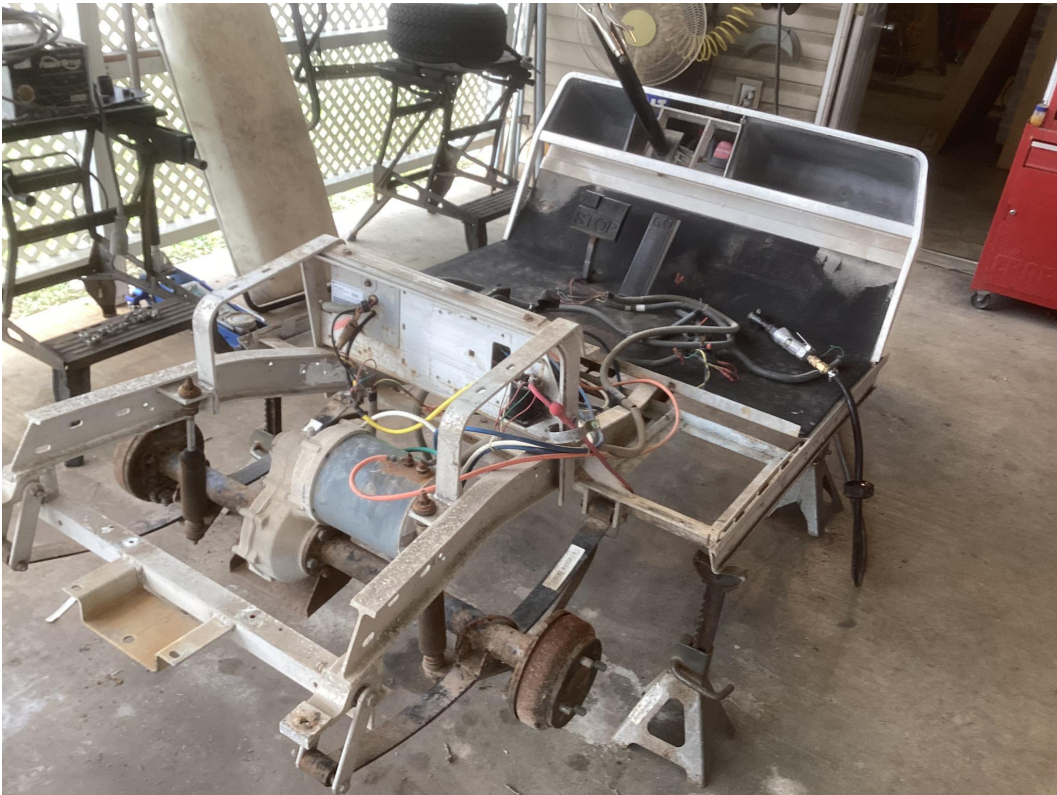
In a tribute to my parents, I would build a custom golf cart, similar to the actual horseless carriage that my father built for my mother. After my wife and I enjoy our precious time with 'Lil Chino, it will be passed down to my children, their children, etc.

I used a standard golf cart chassis, with the actual motor, axles, wheel hubs, etc. This project would not have been possible without the individual talents, skills, and resources of some of my dear friends.

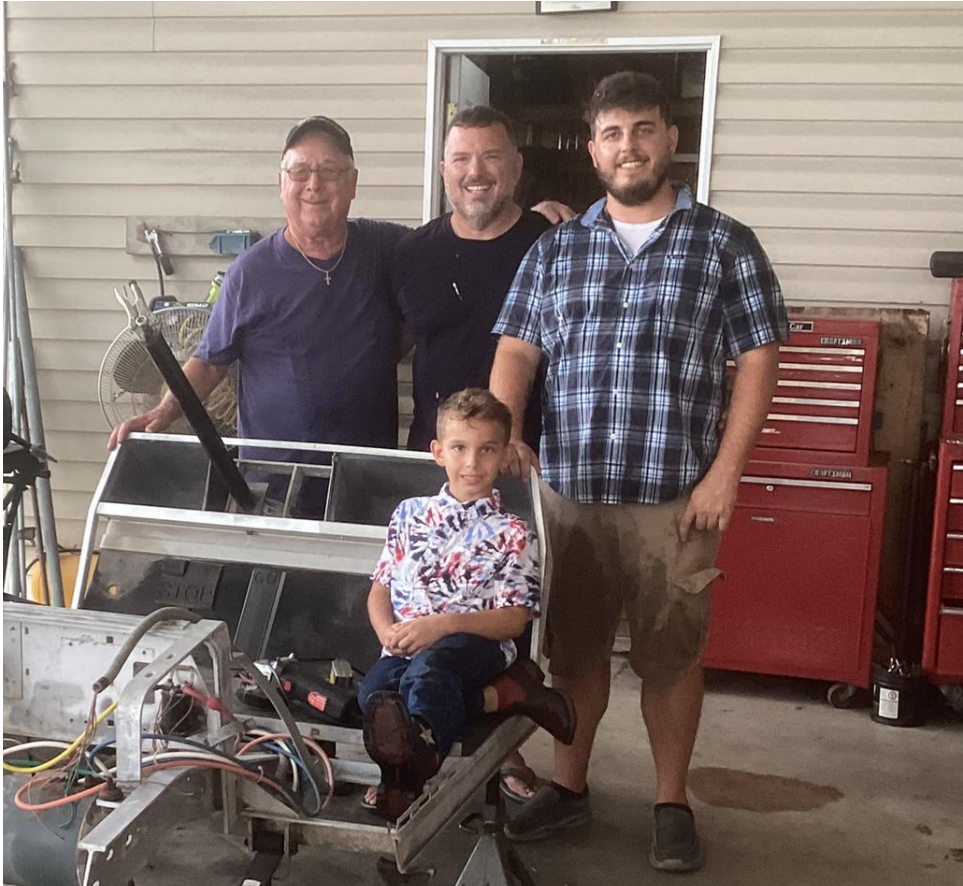
The project began with a 2002 48-Volt Club Car DS.



The cart was stripped down to the aluminum chassis.



Four generations of Connolly men working on this project! Myself, my son Billy Jr., my grandson Michael, and my great grandson Landon.



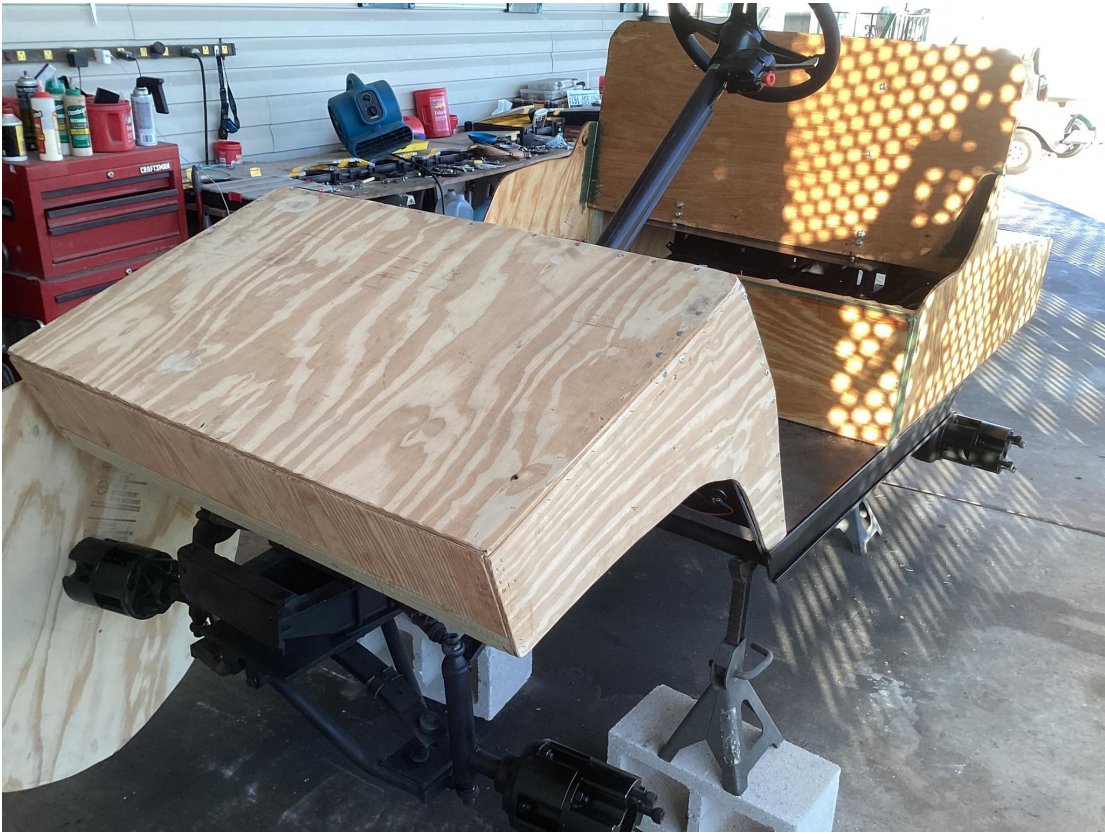
Added heavy duty rear leaf springs, a 6 inch lift kit, all new electrical wiring, new batteries, custom steering wheel, custom dash, 6 and 7 inch aluminum wheel extensions on the rear and front, and inserted an 8 inch extension to the front chassis.



Designed and built a cardboard pattern for the body.



Replaced the cardboard pattern with ¼ inch plywood. Next a coat of weatherproof sealant and fiberglass was added over the plywood.



An Amish craftsman custom-built these 34 inch, spoked wagon wheels.



The body is primed and ready for paint, clear coat, and pinstriping. After the paint, it was time to install the lights, wheels, and custom upholstery.



Ta-da! Here I am with... **'Lil Chino!**





