

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 – February 1951

Front Cover Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 – February 1951*



## Overall Setting & Layout

The front cover shows three figures interacting in a minimal indoor or stage-like space with a plain off-white background. The scene depicts a musical or dancing moment, indicated by multiple blue musical notes floating above the central characters. The ground plane is lightly shaded in a mauve-purple rectangle beneath their feet.

## Foreground Elements

- The central pair consists of two figures embracing while turning to the right. One wears a green plaid suit with matching trousers and dark footwear; the other wears a bright red dress with dark footwear and hair styled in two rounded shapes.
- Their embrace includes overlapping arms and tightly pressed poses, with one figure's cheek contacting the other's face.
- To the left, a third figure approaches with one arm extended, index finger pointing toward the embracing pair. This figure wears a black coat, blue shorts, and brown shoes, with hair swept upward at the front.
- The pointing figure is leaning forward with one foot lifted slightly, giving a sense of motion or interruption.

## Background Elements

- Large red and blue stylized title text spans the top: "Marge's Little Lulu."
- A cream-colored background features small printed imperfections, subtle aging marks, and minor dot patterns across the surface.

## Visible Text

- Upper left:
  - "DELL COMIC" inside the Dell logo.
  - "A DELL COMIC" vertically along the spine.
  - Price: **10¢**
  - Month abbreviation: **FEB.**
- Bottom center: "**52 pages — ALL COMICS!**"

## Spine Area

- The spine shows light to moderate wear:
  - Small color breaks along the fold
  - Visible creasing near top and bottom
  - Slight rounding of the spine edge
  - Minor chipping in the upper area

## Condition Observations

### Corners

- Top left: rounded with abrasion and light discoloration.
- Top right: softened and lightly worn.
- Bottom corners: rounded but intact.

### Edges

- Left edge (spine side): moderate wear with faint tearing in small points.
- Right edge: light rubbing and faint darkening.
- Bottom edge: minor scuff marks, no major breaks.

### Surface Wear

- Thin non-color-breaking creases seen vertically and across center areas.
- Light scuffing distributed across the background.
- Slight spotting typical of 1950s newsprint aging.
- No stains, writing, or heavy soiling visible.

### Color & Print Quality

- Very strong red and blue inks in the title.
- Clothing colors remain vivid—deep greens, reds, blues.
- Black outlines crisp with no registration offset.
- Background shows typical toning but retains original print clarity.

### Structural Integrity

- No tears or missing material on cover.
- Paper remains flexible.
- Spine structure intact despite moderate wear.

# Overall Front Cover Impression

A lively, colorful cover with strong visual appeal. Wear is concentrated along the spine, edges, and corners, with typical mid-grade surface creasing. Colors remain bold, printing well-preserved, and no structural damage beyond expected Golden Age handling wear.

## Back Cover Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 – February 1951

**READ THESE LETTERS**

**FROM MILLIONS OF READERS ALL OVER THE WORLD!**  
Here's what boys and girls write in to tell us about Dell Comics . . . . .

"I have read your Comics Books for years and still enjoy them. I like the way you keep them clean and humorous."  
— Paul P., Port Orchard, Wash.

"I think DELL COMICS are the best Comics I've ever read. I have about 80 Comics books and most of them are Dell Comics."  
— Buddy B., Bryson City, N.C.

"I thought you would like to know how much I enjoy reading DELL COMICS. The best money can buy. I never tire of reading them."  
— Barbara T., Knoxville, Tenn.

"Just a few lines to tell you how much I enjoy your Comics. I like the nice pictures on the covers. Am adding them to my collection."  
— Shirley T., Northampton, Pa.

**I'M SO PROUD**  
to be a member of the  
**DELL COMICS FAMILY!**  
I receive so many nice  
letters from my readers.  
**Little Lulu**

• Little Lulu, Tubby, and their pals will bring you many exciting new adventures in the coming months. You will roar with delight as this mischievous, happy-go-lucky little prankster gets into all kinds of trouble. But she has a way all her own for getting out of tight situations. You will get a big kick when you see how clever she is in outwitting the boys! You will find every page packed with delightful fun and action. Each adventure is brand new and entirely different. You will want to read every single issue of Little Lulu. For only \$1.00, this magazine will be delivered to your home for a whole year. You receive 12 big issues, published every month — more than 650 pages of wonderful pictures and stories. Send in your subscription now!

**Also FREE membership!**  
By subscribing NOW, you will also receive this attractive membership certificate to the DELL COMICS Club. It comes in beautiful colors, signed by all Dell Comics favorites. Certificate contains a detachable membership card with a place for your name. Just right for carrying in your wallet.

TAKE A TIP FROM ME FOLKS. FILL IN THE HANDY FORM ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE — AND MAIL IT TODAY!

**DELL COMICS CLUB**  
This is a single card

**FREE**  
5 Gorgeous Pictures of **LITTLE LULU and the Gang!**  
In Full Color!

These exclusive photos are ideal for framing and perfect for your scrapbook. Your friends will rave about them and envy you. Get your set first while our supply lasts. Pictures come to you FREE with your subscription to **LITTLE LULU**.

## Overall Setting & Layout

The back cover is a full-page promotional collage featuring reader letters, a large illustrated character, subscription offers, and colorful boxed sections. The page has a busy, high-energy layout made up of angled text blocks, clipped “letter” graphics, and two bright yellow promotional areas. The design uses red, blue, yellow, and black as dominant colors.

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## Foreground Elements

- A large illustrated head-and-shoulders figure appears on the right side with stylized hair and simple line features, positioned above a blue speech-bubble-style shape reading *“I’M SO PROUD...”*.
  - Multiple letter-shaped white rectangles appear toward the top, angled like pinned notes, each containing printed excerpts from readers praising Dell Comics.
  - A yellow panel on the lower right promotes **“FREE — 5 Gorgeous Pictures of LITTLE LULU and the Gang! In Full Color!”**, accompanied by three sample images.
  - A second yellow-orange box in the lower left announces **“Also FREE membership”**, showing membership card graphics.
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## Background Elements

- Off-white background with heavy tonal aging and scattered spotting.
  - Faint vertical discoloration marks, especially along the left edge and top margin.
  - The Dell Comics seal appears twice: once in a yellow circle at upper right and once in rectangular form inside the letter samples.
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# Visible Text

Key printed headings include:

- "READ THESE LETTERS"
- "FROM MILLIONS OF READERS ALL OVER THE WORLD!"
- "I'M SO PROUD to be a member of the DELL COMICS FAMILY!"
- "FREE — 5 Gorgeous Pictures..."
- Subscription and membership language in lower panels.

All text is clear and fully legible.

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## Condition Observations

### Corners

- Top left: rounded with moderate abrasion.
- Top right: lightly rounded, slight edge darkening.
- Bottom corners: rounded but intact.

### Edges

- Left edge: darkened/top-to-bottom from age exposure; visible wear along spine fold.
- Right edge: cleaner, with mild rubbing.
- Bottom edge: light scuffing.

### Surface

- Noticeable age toning across entire page.
- Small scattered speckling/spotting consistent with older newsprint.
- No writing, pen marks, stickers, or moisture staining.

### Color & Print Quality

- Bright yellows and reds retain good saturation.
- Black text remains sharp.
- No fading or smearing.

## **Structural Integrity**

- No tears or chips.
  - Page lies flat with no rippling.
  - No creases affecting artwork.
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## **Overall Back Cover Impression**

A clean, visually strong back cover with vibrant color and a classic Dell promotional layout. Wear is limited to toning, corner rounding, and mild edge abrasion, consistent with stable mid-grade condition.

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Inside Front Cover Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 - February 1951



MARGE'S LITTLE LULU, Vol. 1, No. 32, February, 1951. Published monthly by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 251 Fifth Ave., New York 15, N. Y.; George F. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert F. Delacorte, Vice-President. Re-entered as second-class matter December 15, 1948 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions in U.S.A., \$1.46 per year, single copies, 16 cents; foreign subscriptions, \$2.00 per year; no Canadian subscriptions accepted. Copyright, 1951, by Marguerite H. Buell. Printed in U. S. A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS** should reach us five weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address containing if possible your old address label.

## Overall Setting & Layout

A full **12-panel**, black-and-white + red duotone "**ALVIN**" gag strip arranged in a **3 × 4 grid**. The entire page is printed on heavily toned early-1950s newsprint. The strip follows a frantic chase-and-rescue sequence involving a small child, an older figure, and multiple bystanders.

Across the bottom margin is the full publication block confirming issue information and Dell's standard subscription and address-change statements.

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## Panel-by-Panel Content Description

### Top Row (3 panels)

- **Panel 1:** A figure bursts through a doorway, arms stretched forward, chasing a small running child outside on a grassy yard.
- **Panel 2:** The chase continues along a brick wall; both characters run to the right.
- **Panel 3:** The adult lunges closer; the child runs ahead toward a brick corner.

### Second Row (3 panels)

- **Panel 4:** The adult reaches the child just as a third figure (a passerby with hat and coat) appears.
- **Panel 5:** Collision—adult and bystander impact each other, with motion lines and impact stars.
- **Panel 6:** The adult and bystander fall into a tangled heap while the child slips free.

### Third Row (3 panels)

- **Panel 7:** Another figure joins the scene; a multi-person stumble begins.
- **Panel 8:** Two larger figures crash into each other while the child tries to crawl away.
- **Panel 9:** All three adult figures collapse into a pile, red clothing tones emphasizing exaggerated motion.

### Bottom Row (3 panels)

- **Panel 10:** The adult finally scoops up the child while climbing steps in front of a brick surface.
- **Panel 11:** Three bystanders stand watching, hands folded or held behind them.
- **Panel 12:** The adult washes the child in a large bathroom sink with tiled walls and countertop; only the child's head is visible above the water.

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## Background Elements

- Red-tinted brick walls, grassy areas, and doorway frames.
- A small window appears in panel 1 above the escaping child.
- Interior bathroom tiles and a large basin dominate the final panel.
- Minimal shading, with red used for clothing and select environmental details.

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## Publication Block

- Full indicia text including:
  - "MARGE'S LITTLE LULU, Vol. 1, No. 32, February 1951."
  - Publisher information, address, and copyright notice.
  - Subscription and address-change instructions.

All text is complete and readable.

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## Condition Observations

### Toning

- Heavy Golden Age toning throughout.
- Deep brown darkening concentrated along the top margin and inner spine edge.

### Edges

- Left edge: Darkened with visible age oxidation; slight surface roughness but no tearing.
- Right edge: Slight waviness from aging; clean transitions to the next page.

### Corners

- Upper-left corner: Rounded and creased.
- Other corners: Rounded but structurally intact.

## **Surface**

- No staining, water damage, or writing.
- Light speckling inherent to aged newsprint.
- Artwork remains sharp with no ink smearing.

## **Binding**

- Gutter firm with no splitting.
- No staple pull or tearing visible from this angle.

## **Print Quality**

- Duotone red shading is consistent.
  - Line art remains crisp and well-registered.
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## **Overall Inside Front Cover Impression**

A well-preserved interior page displaying heavy but expected toning. The artwork is fully intact with no structural defects, tears, or markings. Clean printing, stable gutter, and solid presentation for a 1951 Dell inside front cover.

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☑ Centerfold Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 – February 1951



# Overall Setting & Layout

A full two-page interior spread containing two separate multi-panel story sequences. The left page concludes a storyline involving household chores and bedtime arrangements, while the right page begins a new story titled "**Little Lulu.**" Both pages show strong mid-century Dell Comics color work and heavy but uniform Golden Age toning.

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## Left Page Observations

### Panel Content & Narrative Flow

- **Upper left:** Dialogue between two figures in an interior room; one brings up forgotten chores involving rice and shelves.
- **Middle left panels:**
  - A figure carries a dollhouse outside.
  - Figures move through a doorway as another looks on.
  - A humorous interaction takes place involving bedtime decisions and where characters will sleep.
- **Lower left sequence:**
  - Two figures lie in twin beds; one remains awake while the other sleeps.
  - Final small panel includes "**the End**" in the bottom corner, indicating the conclusion of the story segment.

### Background Elements

- Brick patterns, interior doorframes, and hallways.
- Dollhouse prop used as a gag element.
- Simple bedroom setting with two beds and a nightstand.

### Condition Observations

- Heavy toning across the page, darker near outer margins.
  - Rounded corners, mostly at the lower right.
  - No tears, stains, or writing.
  - Colors remain strong and consistent in all panels.
  - Binding at the gutter appears tight with no lifting.
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## ☑ Right Page Observations

### Title Panel

- Bold header: “**Little LULU**” on a tan background.
- Scene shows two figures near a tree and brick structure outdoors.

### Panel Content & Narrative Flow

- **Top right strip:** Characters react to someone approaching (“Here comes Wilbur!”).
- **Middle sequence:**
  - A group gathers; one character adjusts glasses and comments on someone’s outfit.
  - Another figure proudly displays clothing purchased for them.
  - Crowd scenes show expressive gestures and pointing.
- **Lower panels:**
  - Figures huddle as one character thinks of a plan—conveyed by posture and hand-to-chin thinking pose.
  - The final frame shows the character preparing to act on the idea.

### Background Elements

- Outdoor environment with grass, trees, and distant structures.
- Clothing and props (e.g., glasses) used as comedic elements.

### Condition Observations

- Heavy Golden Age toning throughout.
  - Slight waviness near edges, likely humidity aging rather than moisture damage.
  - Corners rounded but intact.
  - No stains, markings, or tears.
  - Color printing strong and stable.
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## ☑ Overall Centerfold Impression

A clean, fully intact centerfold with vivid color and no structural damage. Toning is heavy but uniform, corners are soft but stable, and the gutter is firm with no separation. Very good presentation for a 1951 Dell interior spread.

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Inside Pages Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 - February 1951

 Inside Page 1 (IMG\_0888.jpeg)



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## Overall Setting & Layout

A nine-panel full-color sequence depicting a comedic hat-chasing storyline involving a small figure, a taller figure in a green suit, and outdoor storefront surroundings. The page uses expressive motion arcs, repetition, and slapstick pacing typical of mid-century Dell humor pages.

## Panel Content Highlights

- **Top row:**
  - A child stands angrily, reacting aloud to someone calling them a "cheapskate."
  - A taller figure in a dark coat walks away on a sidewalk.
  - The child reacts dramatically to the insult.
- **Middle row:**
  - A hat blows away in the wind; the child gives chase.
  - A red car and sidewalk appear behind as the child runs toward the hat.
  - The figure in the green suit runs after the child yelling, warning that it's a new hat.
- **Third row:**
  - The child attempts multiple times to grab the runaway hat.
  - The figure in green scolds the child for almost damaging the hat.
  - A tense face-to-face moment occurs.
- **Bottom row:**
  - The child reflects on the harsh language used.
  - The hat blows even farther away into a bright yellow fence area.
  - The child resumes chasing it.

## Background Elements

- Storefront windows, brick patterns, red-and-green sidewalk divisions, yellow fencing.
- Vehicles present in center panels.
- Sparse props allowing motion to dominate.

## Condition Observations

- Heavy toning throughout.
  - Rounded corners; mild interior edge darkening.
  - No tears, stains, or writing.
  - Strong color saturation maintained.
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📄 Inside Page 2 (IMG\_0884.jpeg)



## Overall Setting & Layout

A title page for a Valentine-themed story. "Little Lulu" appears in stylized lettering at top left. The scene features dialogue involving Valentine cards and interpersonal rivalry.

## Panel Content Highlights

- Two figures walk along a wooden fence discussing Valentine's Day.
- One boasts about getting valentines last year; another doubts it.
- Later panels show attempts to hide embarrassment about past card counts.
- A comedic exchange ends with the character deciding to get "plenty of them" this year.
- Final panels involve a retreat indoors, laughter, and frustration.

## Background Elements

- Long tan and brown fence, grass, house siding, windows.
- Walkway and minimal interior suggested through doorframe in later panels.

## Condition Observations

- Heavy Golden Age toning; slightly darker along outer left edge.
  - Rounded corners and mild waviness.
  - Clean surface; no stains or writing.
  - Colors remain vivid and well-registered.
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## Inside Page 3 (IMG\_0886.jpeg)

## Overall Setting & Layout

Another "Little Lulu" story page, showing group outdoor interactions involving a coat, playful criticism, and a plan to "think up something." Panels arranged in a 3 × 3 grid.

## Panel Content Highlights

- A character approaches a group gathering near trees and crates.
- Group ridicules the character's bright coat; jokes about colors and visibility.
- Characters discuss finding mischief or a trick to play.
- One figure contemplates ideas with a thoughtful pose.

## Background Elements

- Trees, grassy areas, wooden crates.
- House corner and “NO DOGS ALLOWED” sign in one panel.
- Natural outdoor lighting tones, consistent across panels.

## Condition Observations

- Heavy uniform toning.
  - Clean surface; no markings.
  - Corners rounded but not damaged.
  - Color remains strong across greens, reds, and blues.
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## Inside Page 4 (IMG\_0887.jpeg)

## Overall Setting & Layout

A six-panel lipstick-themed “Little Lulu” story, featuring two figures discussing appearance, bravery, and whether boys care about these issues.

## Panel Content Highlights

- One figure shows off lipstick; another reacts critically.
- Debate centers around who should wear lipstick and for what reasons.
- Characters test confidence and tease one another.
- Final panels suggest plans to confront a boys’ clubhouse to prove a point.

## Background Elements

- Park-like setting: railings, grassy areas, trees.
- House walls and steps in later panels.
- Simple ground shading suggesting movement across space.

## Condition Observations

- Heavy toning, especially top edge.
  - Clean interior with no staining, writing, or tearing.
  - Corners rounded but intact.
  - Strong pigment density; no fading.
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## Overall Inside Pages Impression

Across all inside pages:

- Strong color preservation
  - Heavy but typical Golden Age toning
  - Clean surfaces with no staining, writing, or moisture damage
  - All pages lie flat with tight gutters
  - Corners rounded but stable
  - Consistent mid-grade presentation across the book
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## Spine Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 – February 1951*



## Overall Setting & Layout

The comic rests horizontally on a white wire rack, photographed from the lower-right front-corner perspective. This angle provides a clear view of the **spine line**, **cover curvature**, and **lower edge alignment**.

## Spine Shape & Roll

- A **moderate forward spine roll** is present, causing the front cover to tilt downward toward the camera.
- The roll runs **uniformly from top to bottom**, with no isolated kink or sharp crease.
- The front cover lifts slightly above the interior block, while the back cover lies flatter.

## Spine Surface Condition

- Multiple **vertical color-breaking stress lines** appear along the spine fold.
- General **abrasion** visible throughout the spine length, including scuffing and ink thinning.
- Several **tiny chips** and edge wear present near both spine ends.
- The printed spine text area (Dell logo and issue number) remains intact but exhibits light rub wear.

## Lower Edge & Cover Alignment

- The lower edge of the cover shows **light waviness** but remains fully intact.
- No tears, no material loss, and no splitting visible along the lower spine quadrant.
- The front cover overhangs slightly due to the roll, creating mild unevenness across the bottom edge.

## Staple Region (visible from angle)

- Staple positions show slight outward tension, creating gentle raised impressions beneath the cover.
- No visible staple pop or lifting of the legs from this vantage point.
- Surrounding spine material shows consistent wear but no deep tearing.

## Spine Ends

- **Top spine end:** rounded, lightly compressed, minor edge rub.
- **Bottom spine end:** slightly more compressed, typical of reading and shelving wear.

## Structural Integrity

- No spine splits visible from this angle.
- Cover remains fully attached along fold.
- Paper fibers appear aged but structurally stable.

## Overall Spine Impression

A **moderately rolled** but structurally sound spine with expected Golden Age wear: stress lines, abrasion, and light chipping. Despite cosmetic defects, the spine remains strong with no separation or critical failure.

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## ☑ Staples Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 – February 1951*

(You uploaded **two** staple close-ups — upper and lower staple. Detailed observations for each are below.)

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### 📌 Upper Staple (IMG\_0891.jpeg)



### Metal Condition

- The staple shows **moderate oxidation**, creating a darkened metal surface.
- No active rust flaking is visible, but the metal color is noticeably aged.
- The staple crown appears **slightly flattened**, consistent with repeated handling.

## Surrounding Paper Condition

- The area around the staple hole shows **significant cracking**.
- Multiple **color-breaking fractures** extend outward from the staple in several directions.
- A **prominent horizontal split** runs across the spine, directly through the artwork.
- The cover layer has **separated** along these cracks, exposing underlying tan newsprint fibers.

## Tears & Fiber Disturbance

- A shallow **tear** begins at the staple hole and extends toward the bottom of the image.
- Paper fibers around the hole are **lifted, frayed, and unstable**.
- Vertical crack lines appear where the cover has folded or flexed over time.

## Structural Integrity

- Despite the heavy cosmetic wear, the staple itself remains **fully engaged** in the spine.
  - No evidence of staple pop or pulled-through paper.
  - Damage remains surface-level but extensive.
-

## Lower Staple (IMG\_0890.jpeg)



### Metal Condition

- The metal displays **lighter oxidation** than the upper staple.
- The staple crown is **straight and tight** to the surface — no bending or lifting.

### Surrounding Paper Condition

- A **wide separation channel** surrounds the staple hole, indicating long-term stress.
- The top and bottom edges of the staple opening show **fiber splitting**.
- Numerous small **stress creases** radiate outward from the spine fold.
- Some creases have broken color and begun to delaminate at the edges.

## Tears & Fiber Disturbance

- Two **micro-tears** appear at the left and right ends of the staple cavity.
- Paper fibers across the fold are **dry and textured**, indicating early brittleness in the spine region.

## Structural Integrity

- The staple holds the cover securely.
- No displacement or widening of the staple hole is visible from this angle.
- Structural stability remains good even with cosmetic deterioration.

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## Overall Staples Impression

Both staples remain **structurally secure**, but the **surrounding paper is heavily damaged**, especially:

- Multiple crack lines
- Color-breaking stress fractures
- Fraying and fiber lift
- Horizontal splitting along the spine near the top staple
- Oxidation in both staple crowns

These defects will weigh significantly in the **Structural Integrity** category of both reports.

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Brittleness Test Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 32 – February 1951*



## Overall Bend Behavior

- The lifted page bends into a **smooth arc** with no snapping or sharp resistance.
- The sheet flexes naturally and returns toward flat alignment when released.
- No auditory cracking, no sudden stiffness, and no break-line formation appeared during the lift.

## Edges & Fibers

- Outer edge shows **heavy Golden Age toning**, dark tan to brown.
- Despite oxidation, the paper fibers remain **cohesive**—no crumbling, fragmenting, or powdering along the bend.
- No fiber splitting at the raised corner or along the edge.

## Surface & Color Layer Response

- Color layer bends without **cracking or flaking**.
- No new crease lines form at the bend point.
- Under-page shows equally toned but stable paper stock.

## Structural Integrity

- No micro-tears or delamination along the fold.
- Page layers stay smooth and unified.
- No evidence of brittleness fracture, even near the corner where weakness typically first appears.

**Brittleness Rating: 8 / 10 — aged but flexible**