

## MARGE'S LITTLE LULU VOL. 1 NO. 63 – AUGUST 1953



### Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, well-lit, fully captures the entire front cover, and is adequate for evaluation.

# Front Cover Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)*

## Overall Scene & Composition

- The cover shows a child standing on grass holding a croquet mallet while preparing to strike one of several brightly colored croquet balls.
- A sign structure with an arched frame reading **"MEN AT WORK"** stands behind the child.
- A person is positioned inside a circular ground opening beneath the sign, with only the head and cap visible.
- The sky features a gradient shifting from light blue at the bottom to darker blue at the top.
- The title **"Marge's Little Lulu"** appears prominently across the top in yellow lettering with a red banner for "Marge's."
- The Dell Comics imprint appears in the upper-left corner with the word **"SEPTEMBER."**
- The price **"10¢"** is printed in the upper-right corner.

## Condition & Surface Characteristics

- The spine shows moderate wear including faint stress lines and small patches of color loss along the fold.
- Light edge wear is visible along the left and bottom sides, with mild corner rounding.
- The sky region shows slight surface rubbing but no major disruption to the artwork.
- Small scattered marks appear near the lower cover area but do not obscure details.
- The cover lies flat with no folding or major creasing.

## Color & Printing Quality

- Colors remain vivid, with strong reds, yellows, blues, and greens.
- All linework appears crisp with no noticeable misalignment or blurring.
- The sky gradient prints smoothly and evenly.
- Croquet elements and character outlines are sharp and clearly defined.

## Paper Condition

- Mild age toning is visible along the page edges.
- No tearing, chipping, staining, or moisture distortion is evident.
- The paper surface remains smooth with intact fibers.

## Overall Impression

A clean and vibrant front cover showing moderate spine wear, light edge abrasion, and minor surface rubbing. Colors remain strong, and the artwork is well-preserved with stable paper for a 1953 issue.

## Back Cover Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)

**"SPARK UP if you want to be a Catcher!"**  
SAID "YOGI" BERRA,  
star catcher, New York Yankees

"YOGI" BERRA SHOWED ME A CHAMPION CATCHER NEEDS PLENTY OF SKILL-- BUT SPARK IS REALLY IMPORTANT TOO!

GET BETWEEN THE RUNNER AND THE PLATE LIKE I SHOWED YOU. YOU GOTTA HAVE MORE SPARK, TOO!

GET PROPER REST AND FOOD! BREAKFAST IS IMPORTANT SO I CHOOSE ENERGY FOODS LIKE WHEATIES. I COUNT ON THEM FOR SPARK!

I SURE LIKE WHEATIES!

NOW YOU'RE SPARKIN'!

GOT HIM! WHEATIES REALLY HELP ME SPARK!

**SPARK UP WITH WHEATIES!**  
"Breakfast of Champions"  
THERE'S A WHOLE KERNEL OF WHEAT IN EVERY WHEATIES FLAKE

- WHOLE WHEAT FOR GROWTH
- WHOLE WHEAT FOR STAMINA
- WHOLE WHEAT FOR RED BLOOD

*Yogi Berra*

Get this photo out. Look for different champion pictures in other Dell Comics.

## Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, fully framed, well-lit, and adequate for evaluation.

## Overall Scene & Composition

- The back cover is arranged as a multi-panel advertisement centered around baseball action scenes accompanied by instructional text.
- The upper section features large printed text promoting "SPARK UP if you want to be a Catcher!" along with an illustrated sliding play.
- Multiple mid-page panels depict baseball demonstrations, conversation scenes, and a breakfast table setting with a cereal bowl.
- A rectangular photographic portrait of a baseball player appears in the lower-left corner with a printed signature beneath it.
- The bottom-right section contains a boxed cereal advertisement with product illustrations and descriptive text.

## Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Light age toning is present across the back cover.
- Minor wear along the edges includes faint abrasions and small nicks, especially along the left and bottom margins.
- Small scattered surface marks appear primarily in lighter background zones.
- No major creases, tears, folds, or dents are visible.

## Color & Printing Quality

- Reds, blues, yellows, and greens print with strong saturation throughout the advertisement panels.
- Linework appears sharp, with no noticeable misregistration in the illustrated frames.
- Text and speech balloons remain crisp and fully legible.
- The photographic portrait shows clear contrast and clean edges.

## Paper Condition

- Paper shows mild oxidation concentrated toward the borders.
- No chips, missing sections, staining, or moisture rippling are visible.
- Paper fibers appear uniformly intact.

# Overall Impression

A well-preserved back cover advertisement with vivid printing, stable paper, and only light edge wear typical of age. The illustration and text elements remain clear and sharply defined.

# Inside Pages Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)



# Photo Validation

- The images are clear, well-lit, page edges visible, and fully adequate for evaluation.
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## Inside Page Set 1

### Overall Scene & Composition

- A multi-panel sequence depicts a small character stranded on a rock in open water, attempting to signal a distant ship.
- The ship approaches, sailors wave, and the scene shifts as the vessel suddenly rises from the water and collapses dramatically.
- Subsequent panels show the character alone again on the rock, reacting to the ship's disappearance.
- Final panels reveal the character reflecting on why the events occurred.

### Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Moderate oxidation is present throughout the page.
- Small dark flecks appear along outer margins.
- Minor abrasion along the gutter edge.
- No tears or missing sections observed.

### Color & Printing Quality

- Colors are strong throughout, especially blues and reds.
- Panel borders and linework remain sharp.
- No noticeable misregistration.

### Paper Condition

- Even aging across the sheet.
  - No brittleness cracks or chips evident.
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## Inside Page Set 2



### Overall Scene & Composition

- A chase sequence unfolds across multiple panels with characters moving between a house interior, stairway, yard, and park bench area.

- Dialogue balloons guide the action as characters search for a missing figure.
- The final panels reveal a slapstick encounter near a bench.

### **Condition & Surface Characteristics**

- Heavy oxidation at edges and along the gutter.
- Light rubbing visible in solid-color background regions.
- No tearing or folding detected.

### **Color & Printing Quality**

- Bright color palette with clean outlines.
- No smearing in speech balloons.
- Consistent print density in all panels.

### **Paper Condition**

- Stable paper integrity with no chips.
  - Slight waviness consistent with age.
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## **Inside Page Set 3**

### **Overall Scene & Composition**

- A beach-themed story segment featuring several characters interacting with food, beach towels, and sand.
- A character searches for missing sandwiches while others offer cautionary advice about swimming after eating.
- Final panels transition into a brief story-within-a-story setup.

### **Condition & Surface Characteristics**

- Oxidation is visible throughout the sheet.
- Minor surface wear near lower panels.
- Gutter shows slight darkening but remains intact.

## **Color & Printing Quality**

- Strong, saturated colors with stable halftone shading.
- Linework is well-defined.
- No registration drift evident.

## **Paper Condition**

- Evenly aged with intact edges.
  - No tears or structural faults.
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# **Inside Page Set 4**

## **Overall Scene & Composition**

- A storyline involving two characters preparing for a tea party, navigating domestic spaces, sidewalks, and interior rooms.
- Panels show doorways, staircases, a parked vehicle, and interior settings.
- Dialogue advances the plot toward a planned social event.

## **Condition & Surface Characteristics**

- Oxidation heavier along the right margin.
- Small creases appear near upper panel corners.
- Light surface wear on solid colored areas.

## **Color & Printing Quality**

- Good uniform saturation with clean linework.
- Text and borders print sharply.
- No smudging or misalignment visible.

## **Paper Condition**

- Paper remains flexible with no brittleness indicators.
  - No tears, chips, or moisture damage.
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## Overall Impression – Inside Pages

A cohesive and well-preserved interior with strong color retention, consistent line quality, heavy but typical Golden Age oxidation, and stable paper. No structural defects beyond normal aging; all pages remain intact, readable, and uniformly toned.

## Centerfold Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)*



## Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, centered, shows both full pages, and is adequate for evaluation.

## Overall Scene & Composition

- The centerfold depicts a two-page continuous sequence showing multiple characters interacting across interior and outdoor settings, following a trail of scattered papers.
- Left-hand panels show a character searching for another individual, moving between indoor rooms, a doorway, and a living room chair.
- Right-hand panels show a paper trail leading outdoors, where the character follows it past grass, trees, and a bench.
- Several panels involve dialogue exchanges between characters who encounter the scattered papers and discuss the situation.
- The final panels show the characters gathering the papers and explaining how the trail was created.

## Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Oxidation is present across both pages, more pronounced along the outer edges.
- The gutter displays mild darkening and slight stress but no tearing.
- Light surface rubbing appears in flat-color background regions.
- No creases, folds, or missing sections are visible.

## Color & Printing Quality

- Colors print strongly, with saturated reds, blues, greens, and yellows throughout.
- Linework remains sharp across all panels with consistent registration.
- Speech balloons and text remain crisp and fully legible.

## Paper Condition

- Paper fibers appear stable and flexible, consistent with well-preserved Golden Age newsprint.
- No chips, splits, or moisture rippling are present.

## Overall Impression

A clean, stable centerfold with strong color, uniform aging, intact gutter structure, and no structural faults beyond typical oxidation.

# Centerfold



# Centerfold Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)*

## Overall Scene & Composition

- The centerfold presents a continuous two-page sequence showing characters searching for another character and following a scattered paper trail across indoor and outdoor spaces.
- The left page shows a character reacting to the disappearance of another, moving through a chair, doorway, and side-room setting.
- The right page continues the trail outside across grass, trees, and a bench, with characters discussing the scattered papers and their origin.
- The final panels show characters reconvening and explaining the trail's purpose.

## Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Oxidation is visible throughout both pages, heavier near the outer margins.
- The gutter displays mild darkening but remains intact with no separation.
- Light rubbing is visible in flat-color regions.
- No tears, bends, or missing material are observed.

## Color & Printing Quality

- Colors remain bright and saturated, with clean reds, blues, greens, and yellows.
- Linework is sharp with no misregistration.
- Speech balloons and text retain distinct printing and strong readability.

## Paper Condition

- Paper shows consistent aging typical of early 1950s newsprint.
- Edges are intact with no chips or cracks.
- No moisture rippling or staining is present.

## Overall Impression

A well-preserved centerfold with strong color retention, uniform oxidation, intact structure, and sharply printed artwork.

## Spine



## Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, steady, side-angled, shows the full spine edge and both covers aligned, and is adequate for evaluation.

# Spine Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)*

## Overall Setting & Perspective

- The comic is resting horizontally on a white wire rack, photographed from a low side angle that reveals the entire spine length and the plane of the front and back covers.
- The rack's structure supports the comic evenly, allowing the spine area to remain visible without distortion.
- The background consists of an indoor setting with a closed door and neutral-colored walls.

## Spine Shape & Alignment

- The spine appears straight along its entire length with **no visible spine roll**.
- A slight natural curvature is present, typical of Golden Age saddle-stitched comics under their own weight.
- The front cover lies flush against the interior pages, indicating that the spine alignment remains stable.

## Spine Surface Condition

- The spine edge displays **moderate wear**, including small areas where the cover color thins along the fold.
- Light vertical stress lines are visible along the fold from periodic opening and handling.
- No splitting or separation of the spine fold is visible from this angle.

## Staple Zone Condition

- Individual staples are not directly visible in this angle, but faint impressions along the fold indicate their positions beneath the cover.
- No outward bulging, tearing, or paper distortion is present around the staple regions.
- No rust migration is visible from this angle.

## Edge & Corner Wear

- The lower spine corner shows mild rounding but remains intact without fraying.
- The upper spine corner exhibits slight compression consistent with normal aging and storage.

## **Overall Impression**

A straight, well-aligned spine exhibiting moderate but typical Golden Age wear, including light stress lines and minor color thinning. The cover sits securely, with no evidence of roll, separation, or structural instability.

## **Staples**

## **Photo Validation**

- The photos are clear, close-range, well-lit, and adequately show the staple zones for evaluation.

# Staples Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)*

## Upper Staple Area



- The staple is visibly oxidized, showing a darkened surface consistent with early-stage rust.
- The metal remains intact and seated correctly, with no bends or deformation in the visible portion.
- The paper surrounding the staple hole shows mild abrasion and slight discoloration but no tearing or fiber separation.
- The spine fold exhibits a shallow crease directly beneath the staple but remains structurally sound.
- No lifting of the cover or detachment is present at the upper staple.

## Lower Staple Area



- The lower staple is not fully visible in this angle, but the spine region shows a faint outline of the staple beneath the paper.
- Light vertical stress lines appear near the staple position on the spine fold.
- The surrounding paper shows minor surface wear and darkened toning, but no tearing or splitting.
- No protrusion, swelling, or staple pull-through is evident.
- The cover remains fully attached at the lower staple zone.

## Overall Impression

Both staple areas show mild to moderate age-related wear, including oxidation and small stress lines, but no structural failures. The cover remains firmly attached, with no tearing, separation, or significant deformation in the staple regions.

- suitable for brittleness evaluation.

## Brittleness Test Observations

*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 63 (August 1953)*



## Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, close-up, well-lit, and adequately shows the page corner under gentle lift,

## Overall View of the Test

- The image shows a page corner being gently lifted between fingers, exposing both the front and underside of the sheet for fiber-behavior assessment.
- The lifted portion forms a smooth arc without sharp mechanical bends or angular fractures.

## Page Flex Response

- The page lifts cleanly and forms a gradual curve, indicating the fibers still flex rather than fracture.
- No cracking, snapping, or flaking is visible along the lifted edge.
- The corner maintains structural cohesion, suggesting the paper is aged but not yet brittle.

## Color & Oxidation Indicators

- The page tone is uniformly tan, consistent with advanced oxidation in early-1950s newsprint.
- The exposed underside is darker, suggesting deep oxidation but still cohesive.
- No dark tide lines or localized staining appear.

## Surface Texture & Fiber Condition

- The surface appears matte and dry, typical of aged newsprint.
- There is no powdering or surface shedding when lifted.
- The edges show intact fiber structure without splitting or feathering.

## Mechanical Stress Behavior

- The page resists slightly but bends smoothly under controlled pressure.
- No whitening or stress marks appear at the bend, indicating the fibers are not at fracture threshold.
- The page appears to be in a "late-stage oxidation but still flexible" condition.

## Overall Impression

The page shows heavy oxidation and dryness but **remains flexible and does not exhibit true brittleness**. The fibers hold together under bending, with no cracking or splitting—indicating the paper is aged and fragile but not yet brittle.