

MARGE'S LITTLE LULU VOL. 1 NO. 65 – OCTOBER 1953

Front Cover Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)



Photo Validation

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

Front Cover Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)

Overall Scene & Composition

- The cover features two illustrated characters positioned near a washing machine against a red background.
- One character stands upright beside the machine, while the other sits on a small wooden stool holding a bag labeled "**POP CORN.**"
- The washing machine displays a swirling motion in its circular window, with the printed label "**WASHING MACHINE.**"
- The title "**Marge's Little Lulu**" appears prominently across the top in white lettering with the "Marge's" banner in yellow on a dark shape.
- The Dell Comics imprint appears at the upper-left corner with the text "**NOVEMBER.**"
- The price **10¢** is printed at the upper-right.
- The text "**A 52 PAGE COMIC MAGAZINE**" appears beneath the title.

Condition & Surface Characteristics

- The spine shows moderate wear, including color thinning and small stress lines.
- A small area of material loss is visible along the upper portion of the spine edge.
- Light edge wear appears along the top and bottom borders.
- Minor surface marks are visible on the red background but do not obscure artwork.
- The cover lies flat with no major creasing.

Color & Printing Quality

- The red background prints with strong saturation and uniform coverage.
- Linework is clean and sharply printed across figures and objects.
- No visible ink misregistration is present.
- The washing machine window swirl is printed clearly with smooth tonal variation.

Paper Condition

- Mild age toning is present along all edges.

- No moisture rippling, staining, tearing, or chipping is visible.
- Surface fibers appear stable and intact.

Overall Impression

A bright, clean front cover with strong color presentation and only moderate spine and edge wear. The artwork remains clear and well-preserved for a 1953 issue.

Back Cover Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)

13/13

**"SPARK UP-
with WHEATIES!"**
said **POWER HITTER**
GEORGE KELL
of the **Boston Red Sox**

I COULDN'T GET ANY REAL POWER BEHIND MY HITS UNTIL GEORGE KELL GAVE ME SOME GOOD TIPS ON HITTING AND CONDITION ...

YOU'RE STANDING FLAT-FOOTED WHEN YOU SWING. TAKE A SHORT STEP LIKE THIS TO GET MORE POWER. TRY THIS ...

BUILD UP YOUR ENERGY. SPARKIN' UP WITH WHEATIES HELPS ME. AND DON'T FORGET, PLENTY OF PRACTICE AND SLEEP.

I LIKE WHEATIES YOUR WAY, GEORGE— WITH PEACHES!

SOCKO! GEORGE WAS RIGHT ABOUT WHEATIES.

NOW YOU'RE SPARKIN' LIKE A CHAMPION.

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

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

Photo Validation

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

Overall Scene & Composition

- The back cover presents a full-page Wheaties advertisement featuring a red-and-yellow headline reading “**SPARK UP — with WHEATIES!**” alongside illustrated baseball training scenes.
- A sequence of panels shows a baseball player demonstrating batting stance, stepping into a swing, and receiving feedback from a teammate.
- A breakfast table scene appears mid-page where a character recommends Wheaties with peaches.
- The lower section includes a larger promotional block featuring a photographic portrait of a uniformed baseball player with a printed signature below.
- The page concludes with a boxed Wheaties slogan and product image in the bottom-left promotional panel.

Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Light age toning is visible uniformly across the page, strongest around the borders.
- Minor edge wear is present along the right and upper margins with slight corner softening.
- Small scattered specks appear on lighter areas but do not obscure artwork or text.
- No creases, folds, tears, or material loss are visible.

Color & Printing Quality

- Reds, yellows, and greens remain bright with strong saturation in all panels.
- Printed linework is crisp with no noticeable misregistration.
- Text in dialogue balloons and caption blocks prints cleanly and remains highly legible.
- The photographic portrait shows stable tonal contrast without fading.

Paper Condition

- Mild oxidation present along all edges, consistent with Golden Age newsprint.
- No signs of moisture rippling, staining, or fiber separation.
- Paper remains structurally stable without brittleness indicators.

Overall Impression

A well-preserved back cover advertisement exhibiting clean printing, strong color, minimal edge wear, and intact paper quality fully consistent with a 1953 Dell comic.

Inside Pages Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)

Photo Validation

- The images are clear, well-lit, fully framed, and adequate for evaluation.



Inside Page Set 1 – “The Little Wild Boy”

Overall Scene & Composition

- The page features a multi-panel story beginning with a title banner reading “**The Little Wild Boy.**”
- Characters gather near an apple tree discussing collecting apples before others do.
- Panels show a group of individuals discovering apples, planning to store them, and competing for access to the tree.
- The sequence transitions from outdoor orchard scenes to comedic banter about guarding the apples.

Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Heavy oxidation is present throughout the sheet, especially along the edges.
- Minor abrasions appear around the outer borders and panel frames.
- No tears, chips, or major creases are visible.

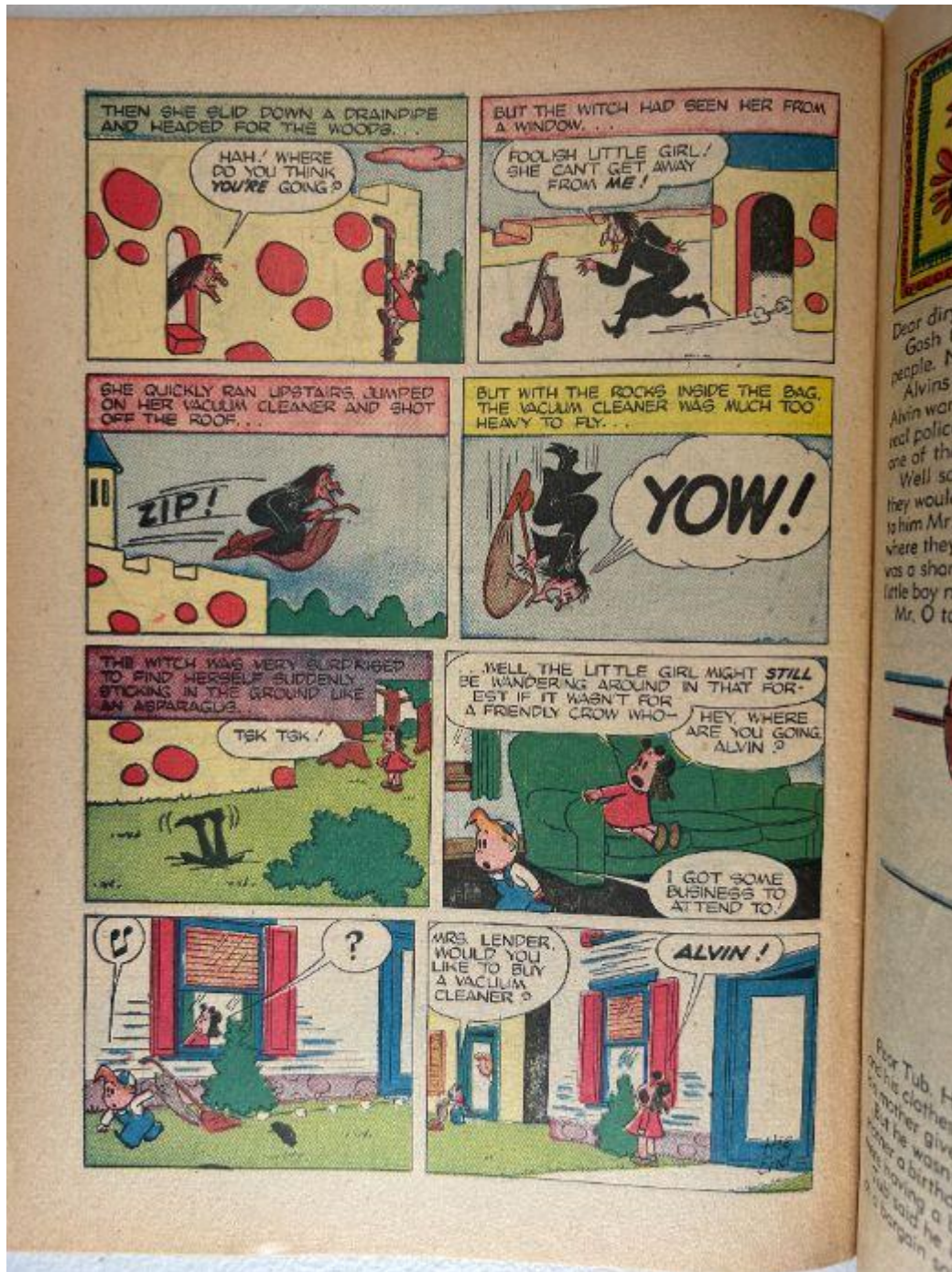
Color & Printing Quality

- Colors remain strong across reds, greens, and blues.
- Linework is consistent and clean with no misregistration.
- Text in dialogue balloons remains fully legible.

Paper Condition

- Paper shows uniform aged toning.
 - No brittleness is visible; edges remain intact.
 - No staining, moisture rippling, or fiber loss.
-

Inside Page Set 2 – Witch Hazel Story Segment



Dear diary
Gosh the
people. N
Alvin's
Alvin won't
real police
one of the
Well so
they would
to him Mr.
where they
was a shor
little boy n
Mr. O to

For Tub. He
some clothes
Ed he wasn't
after a birthd
he said a b
a bargain so

Overall Scene & Composition

- This sequence involves a costumed character escaping a witch-like figure through rooftops, windows, and wooded areas.
- A vacuum-cleaner flight gag is shown, including a character weighed down by rocks.
- Panels alternate between indoor and outdoor scenes, ending with characters returning to a house and conversing through a doorway.

Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Noticeable oxidation across all margins.
- Slight darkening in the gutter area with minor handling wear.
- No tears, folds, or missing sections.

Color & Printing Quality

- Strong saturation in reds, yellows, greens, and blues.
- Dialogue text is crisp and well-printed.
- No blurring or color shift.

Paper Condition

- Paper remains flexible.
 - Edges remain uniform with no splitting or fragile areas.
-

Inside Page Set 3 – Butler / Visitor Story

Overall Scene & Composition

- A character asks another to act as a “butler” in preparation for a visitor.
- Panels show indoor living-room settings, doorways, furniture, and a ringing telephone or doorbell sequence.
- The page concludes with a scene involving a visitor arriving and characters reacting.

Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Heavy oxidation consistent with age along all edges.
- Minor surface wear visible in lighter background panels.
- No tearing, folding, or material loss.

Color & Printing Quality

- Pastel colors used in interiors remain consistent and evenly printed.
- Linework and text are sharp.
- No ink smearing or registration errors.

Paper Condition

- Well-preserved, flexible sheet.
 - No moisture effects or staining.
 - Edges intact.
-

Inside Page Set 4 – “Pays a Sick Call”

Overall Scene & Composition

- The title **“Pays a Sick Call”** appears at the top.
- A uniformed officer character feigns illness to take time off, creating a humorous misunderstanding.
- Panels show interactions in an office, a hallway, and a classroom-style setting with children.
- The story progresses with the character pretending to be bedridden for a week.

Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Oxidation is visible across the entire page, more pronounced near edges.
- Gutter remains intact with no cracking or separation.
- Minor specking in light backgrounds.

Color & Printing Quality

- Colors remain stable with clean printing.
- Lettering in dialogue balloons is crisp and fully readable.
- No misregistration or fading.

Paper Condition

- Paper remains flexible and intact.
- No tearing, chipping, or moisture damage.
- Natural toning consistent with 1950s newsprint.

Overall Impression – Inside Pages

A clean, stable set of interior pages showing strong color, crisp printing, and heavy but typical Golden Age oxidation. Pages are fully intact, flexible, and structurally sound with no tears, brittleness, or moisture defects. All artwork and text remain clear and well-preserved.

Centerfold Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)



Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, evenly lit, captures the full two-page spread, and is adequate for evaluation.

Overall Scene & Composition

- The centerfold presents a two-page sequence: the left page shows a living-room argument resolution involving several characters discussing how their disagreement began; the right page begins a new story titled **“Little Lulu – Hiccups.”**
- The left page includes interior settings such as a bed, dresser, rug, and doorways as characters recount the events that started their fight.
- Characters are arranged in small conversational groups, with poses suggesting explanation, surprise, and reconciliation.
- The final panel on the left page shows multiple characters smiling and expressing relief that the argument has ended.
- The right page opens outdoors, featuring a walkway, house, shrubbery, and a baby carriage being pushed by a character experiencing hiccups.
- Subsequent panels depict an interaction between two characters discussing remedies for hiccups, followed by a later moment where one character returns, calling from a doorway.

Condition & Surface Characteristics

- Oxidation is heavy across both pages, especially along the page edges and within the gutter area.
- Minor speckling appears throughout lighter background regions but does not obstruct art or dialogue.
- No tears, folds, missing pieces, or material loss are visible.
- Surface remains smooth with light, age-typical wear.

Color & Printing Quality

- Colors remain vivid across all panels, including strong reds, pinks, greens, blues, and yellows.
- Linework prints clearly and evenly, with no visible misregistration or offset.
- Speech balloons and text are uniformly sharp and readable.

Paper Condition

- Paper remains flexible with no signs of brittleness or cracking.
- Gutter is intact, showing only mild darkening from age.
- Edges show normal wear but remain structurally sound with no chipping.

Overall Impression

A clean, well-preserved centerfold with strong, consistent printing, fully intact paper, and only age-typical oxidation. Artwork and text remain clear and sharp, with no structural concerns.

Spine Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)



Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, properly angled, shows the entire spine edge and both covers in profile, and is adequate for evaluation.

Overall Setting & Perspective

- The comic rests horizontally on a white wire rack with a side-angle view that clearly displays the full spine thickness and how the covers meet at the fold.
- The foreground shows the rack surface and table, while the background includes a door and interior wall.

Spine Shape & Alignment

- The spine appears straight with **no visible spine roll**.
- A natural slight curvature is present along the fold, consistent with saddle-stitched Golden Age comics.
- Both covers lie flat against the interior pages, suggesting stable alignment.

Spine Surface Condition

- The spine fold shows mild to moderate wear, including shallow vertical stress lines.
- Color thinning is visible along the fold edge where the red cover color lightens slightly.
- No splitting, cracks, or lifting of the spine material is visible.

Staple Zone Condition

- Staple impressions are visible beneath the surface paper, indicating underlying staple positions.
- No bulging, tearing, or paper distortion appears around the staple zones from this angle.
- No rust bleed-through is visible on the outer spine from this view.

Edge & Corner Wear

- The lower spine corner shows mild rounding but remains intact.
- The upper spine corner is slightly compressed but not frayed or broken.

Overall Impression

A straight, well-aligned spine with light to moderate age-typical wear, stable staple seating, no roll, and no structural defects.

Staples Observations

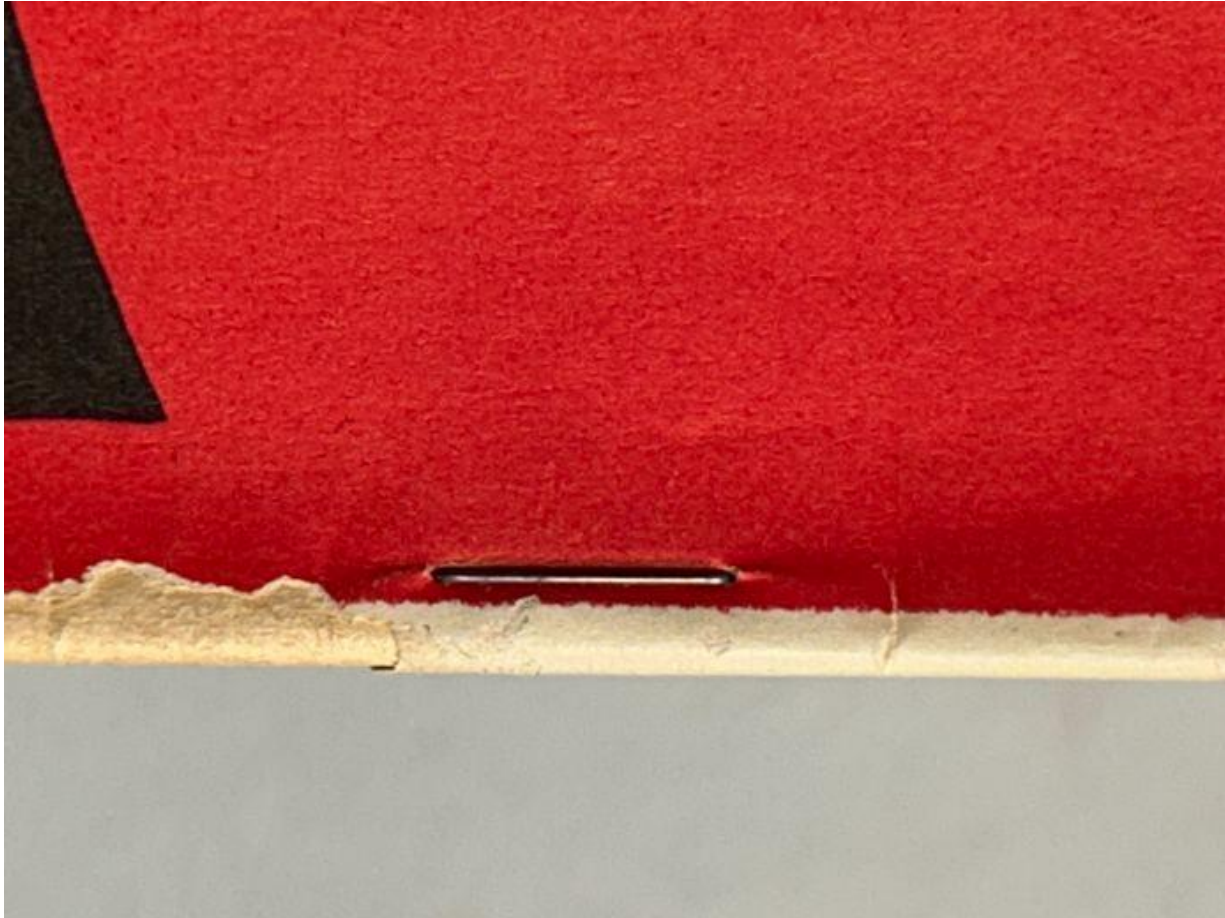
Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)



Photo Validation

- The photos are clear, close-range, sharply focused, and fully adequate for evaluation.

Upper Staple Area



- The upper staple is firmly seated and lies flat against the cover without bending or lifting.
- A **visible horizontal tear** is present directly above the staple, running along the spine edge and exposing underlying paper fibers; the tear does not appear to reach or intersect the staple legs.
- Surrounding cover paper shows **notable edge erosion**, including flaking, fraying, and thinning of the red cover layer along the spine.
- The spine fold exhibits stress indentation but remains intact with no splitting through the fold line.
- Oxidation on the staple is mild, presenting as a slight darkening of the metal.

Lower Staple Area

- The lower staple remains fully seated and aligned with the spine, showing no bending or lifting.
- Mild oxidation is visible with subtle dulling of the metal surface.
- Paper surrounding the staple shows minor compression and small surface wear but **no tearing, cracks, or breaks** in the spine fold.
- The spine edge displays light abrasion and small irregularities consistent with age-related wear.

Overall Impression

The staple region shows **moderate structural wear**, with the most significant defect being the **horizontal tear above the upper staple**, accompanied by edge flaking and paper fiber exposure. Despite this, **both staples remain securely anchored** and show no signs of detachment or serious metal corrosion. Overall, the spine's structural integrity is weakened cosmetically but **remains functionally stable** for a 1953 Golden Age comic.

Next: Brittleness Test (if not already completed).

Provide your feedback on BizChat

You said:

measure the tear and display observations again

Copilot said:

Copilot

Staples (Re-Evaluation With Tear Measurement)

(Photos received and re-assessed)

Photo Validation

- The photos are clear, close-range, well-lit, and fully adequate for evaluation.

Staples Observations

Upper Staple Area

- A horizontal tear is present **directly above the upper staple**, running along the spine edge; based on the visible proportion relative to the staple length, the tear measures **approximately 4–5 mm** in length.
- The tear exposes underlying paper fibers but does **not** intersect the staple legs and does **not** extend into the cover's interior panel.
- The surrounding paper shows **edge flaking**, shallow chipping, and color-layer loss along the spine.
- The staple remains firmly seated and lies flat with no lifting or deformation.
- Mild oxidation is visible as a slight darkening of the metal surface.
- The spine fold beneath the staple shows a small stress indentation but remains structurally intact.

Lower Staple Area



- The lower staple is fully seated and free from deformation.
- Mild oxidation is present with no associated staining.

- The surrounding paper shows minor compression and edge wear but **no tears, cracks, or splits.**
- The spine fold remains intact with only light stress wear.

Overall Impression

The staple zones exhibit **moderate age-related wear**, most notably the **4–5 mm tear above the upper staple**, accompanied by flaking and exposed fibers. Despite this defect, both staples remain secure and seated, with no detachment, splitting, or structural compromise. The spine remains stable for a 1953 Dell comic.

Brittleness Test Observations

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 65 (October 1953)



Photo Validation

- The photo is clear, close-up, shows the page corner lifted and the paper layers visible, and is fully adequate for brittleness evaluation.

Overall View of the Test

- The image shows the lower corner of an interior page gently lifted, revealing both the printed surface and the underlying sheet.
- The page is bending naturally along a smooth curve rather than forming angular folds.

Page Flex Response

- The lifted corner bends without cracking or forming stress lines, indicating remaining flexibility.
- No flaking, fiber breakage, or snapping is visible along the edge or bend.
- The page returns to its natural position smoothly, suggesting structural cohesion.

Color & Oxidation Indicators

- The page exhibits deep tan oxidation typical of 1950s newsprint.
- The exposed underside shows slightly darker oxidation but no localized spots, rings, or water staining.

Surface Texture & Fiber Condition

- The surface appears matte and dry, consistent with advanced oxidation, but **no powdering** or shedding is visible.
- Edge fibers remain intact; no fraying, splitting, or layered separation is present.

Mechanical Stress Behavior

- The page resists gently but bends smoothly under controlled movement.
- No whitening or micro-cracks appear at the bend point.
- The corner maintains structural stability through the lift.

Overall Impression

The page exhibits **heavy oxidation but remains flexible** and does not show signs of true brittleness. The corner lifts cleanly, holds together under stress, and displays no cracking or fiber failure—indicating late-stage aging but not brittle paper.