

# **Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 – July 1954**

**Evaluation Date:** April 8, 2026

**Publisher:** Dell Comics

**Cover Price:** 10¢

**Format:** Staple-bound, 52-page comic magazine

**Contents:** Little Lulu stories and features

**Cover Description:** Little Lulu sits on a stool sewing a multicolored patchwork quilt as another child walks away in the background, set against a bright yellow background.

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## **Summary of Observations**

The comic presents as a complete, intact example with all major structural components present, including covers, original staples, centerfold, inside front cover, and a full interior page set. Overall condition reflects moderate, age-consistent handling wear typical of mid-1950s Dell paper stock. Primary condition issues are concentrated along the spine, including distributed stress creasing and localized compression at staple positions. Covers exhibit surface wear, edge abrasion, and corner rounding. Interior paper shows uniform toning to a cream/light tan hue with minor handling defects. Brittleness testing indicates mild age-related stiffness without visible fiber fracture. The book retains solid structural integrity throughout.

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## **1. Front Cover Observations**

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 — July 1954*

### **Photo Validation (img\_1471)**

- Image is clear, sharp, and evenly lit.
- Full cover is visible with edges, corners, and spine-side margin adequately captured.
- Sufficient resolution for evaluating surface wear, gloss, color strength, and creasing.

### **Surface & Gloss**

- Original cover gloss is present but reduced across the yellow background.
- Light surface scuffing visible at oblique angles, especially in open background areas.

## Color & Print Quality

- Yellow background remains bright with no large fade zones.
- Character colors retain strong saturation.
- Black linework remains crisp with no ink bleed observed.

## Wear & Defects

- Multiple short spine-adjacent stress creases extend into the cover field.
- Mild edge wear along all edges, with shallow abrasions most noticeable along the right and bottom edges.
- Corners show rounding without full paper loss.
- No writing, stamps, or markings observed.

## Overall Impression

The front cover remains visually appealing with excellent color retention, though dulled gloss and spine stress prevent higher-grade placement.

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## 2. Back Cover Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 — July 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1472)

- Image is well framed and evenly lit.
- Entire back cover and all edges are clearly visible.
- Adequate clarity for assessing toning, edge wear, and advertising integrity.

### Surface & Advertising Panel

- Full-page Wheaties advertisement featuring Roy Campanella.
- Imagery and text remain sharp and fully legible.
- Uniform age-related toning across the surface.

### Wear & Defects

- Edge wear most pronounced along the spine-side edge.
- Minor corner rounding consistent with handling.
- No tears, stains, writing, or perforations observed.

## Overall Impression

Back cover condition closely mirrors the front, remaining clean and structurally sound.

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## 3. Inside Front Cover Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 — July 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1473)

- Interior page is fully visible with adequate lighting.
- Margins, gutter, and lower indicia area are clearly captured.
- Image quality sufficient for paper color and print evaluation.

### Indicia (visible)

- *Marge's Little Lulu, Vol. 1, No. 73, July 1954.*
- Dell Publishing information visible and legible.

### Paper Condition

- Paper toned to cream/light tan, consistent with the interior page set.
- Minor edge wear present; no tearing or writing observed.

## Overall Impression

Inside front cover is clean, complete, and structurally sound with typical age-related toning.

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## 4. Spine Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 — July 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1479)

- Spine is captured horizontally with staples visible.
- Focus and lighting sufficient to assess creasing, alignment, and edge wear.

## Spine Structure

- Spine remains intact with full length present.
- Multiple horizontal and diagonal stress lines visible along the fold.

## Staple Area Stress

- Localized paper compression at both staple locations.
- No spine splits or breakage observed.

## Alignment

- Covers remain aligned with no pronounced roll or twist.
- Light paint rub visible along spine ridge.

## Overall Impression

Spine shows moderate Golden Age wear while retaining full structural cohesion.

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# 5. Staples Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 — July 1954*

## Photo Validation

- **Upper Staple (img\_1480):** Clear, centered image with staple and surrounding paper visible.
- **Lower Staple (img\_1481):** Adequate focus and lighting for oxidation and paper stress evaluation.

## Upper Staple

- Original and centered.
- Light oxidation visible.
- Minor paper stress at insertion point; no tearing.

## Lower Staple

- Original and firmly seated.
- Similar light oxidation present.
- Surrounding paper intact with mild stress impressions only.

## Overall Impression

Both staples remain functional and original with no migration or pull-through.

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## 6. Centerfold Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 — July 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1478)

- Centerfold spread clearly visible with gutter and staple attachments shown.
- Sufficient resolution to evaluate alignment and fold integrity.

### Attachment & Alignment

- Centerfold is present, complete, and secured at both staples.
- Proper alignment maintained.

### Fold Condition

- Light linear fold stress consistent with repeated opening.
- No splitting along the fold observed.

### Paper Condition

- Paper tone consistent with interior pages.
- No localized discoloration or staining.

## Overall Impression

A stable, intact centerfold with only mild age-typical wear.

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## 7. Interior Pages Observations

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### Photo Validation (img\_1474–img\_1477)

- Multiple interior pages shown with consistent lighting and focus.
- Color, margins, and panel integrity clearly visible.
- Sufficient coverage for general interior condition assessment.

### Paper Color

- Cream to light tan (Overstreet: Cream/Tan)

### General Condition

- Interior pages appear complete.
- Uniform toning throughout, heavier near outer edges.
- No writing, coloring, stamps, or tears observed.

### Defects

- Minor edge fraying on select pages.
- Occasional small corner bends.

### Print Quality

- Ink remains sharp with stable color registration.
- Dialogue balloons and fine linework remain clear.

### Overall Impression

Interior pages are well preserved for age with modest handling wear.

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## 8. Brittleness Test Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 73 — July 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1482)

- Page edge and flex position clearly visible.
- Lighting sufficient to observe fiber response and surface behavior.

### Test Method (Visual Only)

- Brittleness assessed through observable flex response only.
- No sound-based cues referenced or inferred.

### Paper Response

- Mild stiffness during flexing.
- Partial rebound observed upon release.

### Fiber Behavior

- No visible fiber cracking, splitting, or edge flaking.
- No micro-crumbling detected.

### Overall Impression

Paper exhibits mild age-related brittleness consistent with mid-1950s Dell interiors, remaining stable under careful handling.

## 9. Consolidated Defect Listing

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The following defects were observed during intake and are documented here in aggregate form only. All items below are described in greater detail within their respective observation sections above.

- Distributed spine stress creasing extending from the spine into the front cover field
- Localized paper compression and stress at both staple positions
- Light oxidation present on both upper and lower staples
- Reduced original cover gloss, most apparent on the front cover background
- Light surface scuffing on front cover visible under angled light
- Mild edge wear along all cover edges, more pronounced along the spine-side edge
- Corner rounding at all four cover corners with no full paper loss
- Uniform age-related toning of interior pages to cream/light tan
- Minor edge fraying on select interior pages
- Occasional small corner bends on interior pages
- Mild age-related paper stiffness observed during brittleness testing