

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories – Vol. 12 No. 4 (January 1952)

Evaluation Date: April 12, 2026

Publisher: Dell Comics

Cover Price: 10¢

Format: Staple-bound comic magazine

Contents: Donald Duck lead story; Mickey Mouse; additional Disney character features

Cover Description: Donald Duck stands at a table holding a cup while Huey, Dewey, and Louie lean over a large bowl, with cups and utensils arranged on the table, set against a warm yellow background.

Summary of Observations

This copy presents as a visually attractive comic with **nice overall color retention** and clean interior artwork, but it is materially affected by **damage along the bottom of the spine and adjacent cover stock**. The front cover retains good color saturation and surface clarity, and the interior pages remain complete and readable. The spine, while remaining generally straight and firm along most of its length, exhibits a **distinct cover-page separation and tearing localized at the bottom staple region**, compromising binding stability at that point.

Both staples are present but show oxidation, with the lower area exhibiting more pronounced paper damage and separation. Interior pages show normal age-related toning and good print quality. Brittleness testing indicates retained flexibility with no newly induced fiber fracture. No restoration indicators are observed.

FRONT COVER — OBSERVATIONS

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Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2493.jpeg):

The image is sharp, evenly lit, and fully framed, clearly resolving edges, corners, spine margin, and cover surface texture.

Observations

The front cover displays **solid yellow-orange color saturation** with stable inks and clean linework throughout the artwork. Surface gloss is moderately retained, visible as a gentle sheen across the central portion of the cover without heavy dulling or scuffing.

Along the lower spine area, the front cover stock shows distress when viewed in conjunction with spine and separation images (see Spine section). Outside of that area, general edge wear is light. Corners show mild rounding estimated at **3–4 mm** inward. No writing, stains, or broad creasing are visible on the cover face.

- Good overall color retention
- Moderate surface gloss
- Light edge wear away from spine base
- Mild corner rounding (~3–4 mm)
- No writing or staining observed

Overall Impression

The front cover remains visually appealing, with defects concentrated at the lower spine attachment rather than across the cover face.

BACK COVER — OBSERVATIONS

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Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2494.jpeg):

The image is clear and evenly lit, showing the entire back cover including edges and corners.

Observations

The back cover exhibits **uniform age-related toning** to a light tan color typical of early-1950s Dell paper stock. Advertising graphics and text remain legible with intact borders. Surface gloss is reduced but even. Edge wear is light, and corners show mild rounding estimated at **3–4 mm** inward. No tape residue, writing, tears, or moisture staining are present.

- Uniform age-related toning
- Reduced but even gloss
- Light edge wear
- Mild corner rounding (~3–4 mm)

Overall Impression

The back cover is well preserved relative to the spine damage, showing typical aging only.

INSIDE FRONT COVER — OBSERVATIONS

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Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2495.jpeg):

The image is sharp and evenly lit, clearly showing margins and interior surface.

Observations

The inside front cover shows cream to light tan paper coloration with even toning. The page surface remains flat and intact except near the lower spine area, where faint stress is visible corresponding to the cover separation discussed below. No writing or staining is present.

- Inside front cover present
- Even age-related toning
- Minor stress near lower spine alignment
- No writing or stains

Overall Impression

The inside front cover is largely clean, with stress limited to the binding area.

SPINE — OBSERVATIONS

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Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2503.jpeg; IMG_2507.jpeg):

The profile spine image and close-up separation image are clear, well focused, and adequate for evaluating binding integrity and paper separation.

Observations

The spine remains **straight and firm through most of its length**; however, at the **bottom of the spine**, a **distinct separation of the front cover from the interior pages** is visible. The separation forms an opening gap at the lower spine corner, with exposed interior paper visible. The separated section measures approximately **12–18 mm upward from the bottom edge**.

Paper at the separation shows fraying and thinning, suggesting stress and partial detachment at the lower staple region. The remainder of the spine remains comparatively strong without extensive splitting.

- Spine straight through most of its length
- **Lower spine/front cover separation (~12–18 mm)**
- Exposed interior paper visible
- Fraying and thinning of paper at separation

Overall Impression

The spine is structurally compromised at the bottom due to cover separation, despite remaining strong elsewhere.

UPPER STAPLE — OBSERVATIONS

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories – Vol. 12 No. 4 (January 1952)

Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2504.jpeg):

Macro image is sharp and evenly lit.

Observations

The upper staple is present and shows **moderate oxidation**, with rust visible on the exposed metal. Surrounding paper exhibits localized discoloration extending approximately **2–3 mm** from the staple crown. No complete pull-through is visible.

- Staple present
- Moderate oxidation
- Localized paper discoloration (~2–3 mm)

Overall Impression

The upper staple remains functional with age-related corrosion.

LOWER STAPLE — OBSERVATIONS

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories – Vol. 12 No. 4 (January 1952)

Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2505.jpeg):

Macro image is clear and properly framed.

Observations

The lower staple shows **more pronounced oxidation** than the upper staple. Surrounding paper is darkened and weakened, corresponding to the observed lower spine separation. Discoloration and fiber breakdown extend approximately **4–6 mm** from the staple area.

- Staple present
- Heavier oxidation
- Surrounding paper damage (~4–6 mm)
- Structural weakness evident

Overall Impression

The lower staple is the primary contributor to binding failure and cover separation.

CENTERFOLD — OBSERVATIONS

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories – Vol. 12 No. 4 (January 1952)

Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2502.jpeg):

The image clearly shows both centerfold pages and fold seam.

Observations

The centerfold is present and aligned. Staples are visible through the fold. Paper toning matches surrounding interior pages. No complete splitting is observed, though mild stress near the lower fold corresponds with staple deterioration.

- Centerfold present
- Attached at both staples
- Uniform toning
- Mild stress near lower fold

Overall Impression

The centerfold remains attached, with localized stress at the lower staple area.

INTERIOR PAGES — OBSERVATIONS

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Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2496.jpeg; IMG_2497.jpeg; IMG_2498.jpeg; IMG_2499.jpeg; IMG_2500.jpeg; IMG_2501.jpeg):

Images are clear and evenly lit, showing full pages with margins visible.

Observations

Interior pages exhibit cream to light tan paper coloration with **strong interior artwork color** and clear print registration. Pages are complete and readable. Minor edge wear and small corner bends ($\approx 2\text{--}3$ mm) are visible on select pages, particularly near the lower spine area.

- Cream to light tan pages
- Strong interior color saturation
- Complete and readable
- Minor edge wear and small corner bends

Overall Impression

Interior pages are well preserved aside from localized binding-adjacent stress.

BRITTLENESS TEST — OBSERVATIONS

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Photo Condition & Quality (IMG_2506.jpeg):

The image shows a page being flexed.

Observations

The page bends smoothly with good rebound. No new fiber cracking or flaking is visible as a result of the test.

- Smooth flex
- Good rebound
- No visible fiber fracture

Overall Impression

Paper retains flexibility; brittleness is not a primary issue.

CONSOLIDATED DEFECT LISTING

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories – Vol. 12 No. 4 (January 1952)

- **Lower spine/front cover separation** (~12–18 mm)
- Cover-page tearing and detachment at bottom staple region
- Moderate to heavy oxidation at lower staple with paper damage (~4–6 mm)
- Moderate oxidation at upper staple
- Minor interior edge wear and small corner bends
- Uniform back cover toning



POP! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I JUST REMEMBERED THAT TH' OLD MISER THAT USED TO LIVE IN BR'ER BEAR'S HOUSE... BUILT OURS, TOO!



WHY, I'LL BET THERE'S A FORTUNE UNDER OUR FLOOR!



IF I WERE YOU, POP, I'D FORGET THE WHOLE THING! THAT MONEY YOU FOUND IN THE CHAIR WAS PROBABLY MONEY YOU HID FOR SAFEKEEPING...



...AND THEN YOU FORGOT ABOUT IT!

QUIET! GO AWAY AN' LEMME WORK!



LATER... (PUFF PUFF!) YOU WERE RIGHT, SON! I DIDN'T EVEN FIND A PENNY...

AND OUR HOUSE IS WRECKED! BUT DON'T WORRY! I KNOW SOME FOLKS THAT'LL TAKE US IN!



STILL LATER... IT'S NOT HALF BAD, POP... IF YOU WEAR YOUR BEAR MUFFS!

BONG!

BONG!

BONG!



BAH!



THE GUN! GRAB IT AND WE'VE GOT THEM!



OH BOY! THE SHOTGUN BLAST HIT THE STORE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AND SET IT OFF!



GAWDISH! THIS IS LIKE STANDIN' IN THUH SHOWER BATH!



COME ON, WE HAVE A CHANCE TO GIVE THEM THE GLIP! HERE... TAKE MY HAND!

IS THAT YOU, "TWO"?



YOU BET... IT'S ME, TOO!

I CAN'T SEE A THING IN THIS CONFOUNDED RAIN!



YOUR VOICE SOUNDS FUNNY, "TWO"!

YOURS DOES, TOO! KIND OF PEEP!



I SEE THE DOOR! THE SHOTGUN DIDN'T SET ALL THE SPRINKLERS OFF, JUST THE ONES IN THIS DEPARTMENT!



HURRY UP, GOOFY!

LET'S WAIT FOR THEM RIGHT HERE!

RUG SALE



SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!

?

SQUEAK!

WOLF TH' STUFFING'S
PULLED OUT OF THIS
CHAIR!

MY ORDERS
TO GET OUT
INCLUDED
YOU, TOO!

THERE'S ONLY THREE
DOLLARS... BUT MAYBE
THEM MICE CAN FIND
MORE!

I'VE GOTTA GET 'EM
BACK! THEY'RE VALLUABLE
MONEY-FINDIN' MICE!

SHORTLY...

SAY! WHAT GOES?
I NEVER SAW BRER BEAR
LOOKIN' SO PROSPEROUS
BEFORE...

POP!
POP! DID YOU
HEAR ABOUT
BRER BEAR'S
GOOD
FORTUNE?

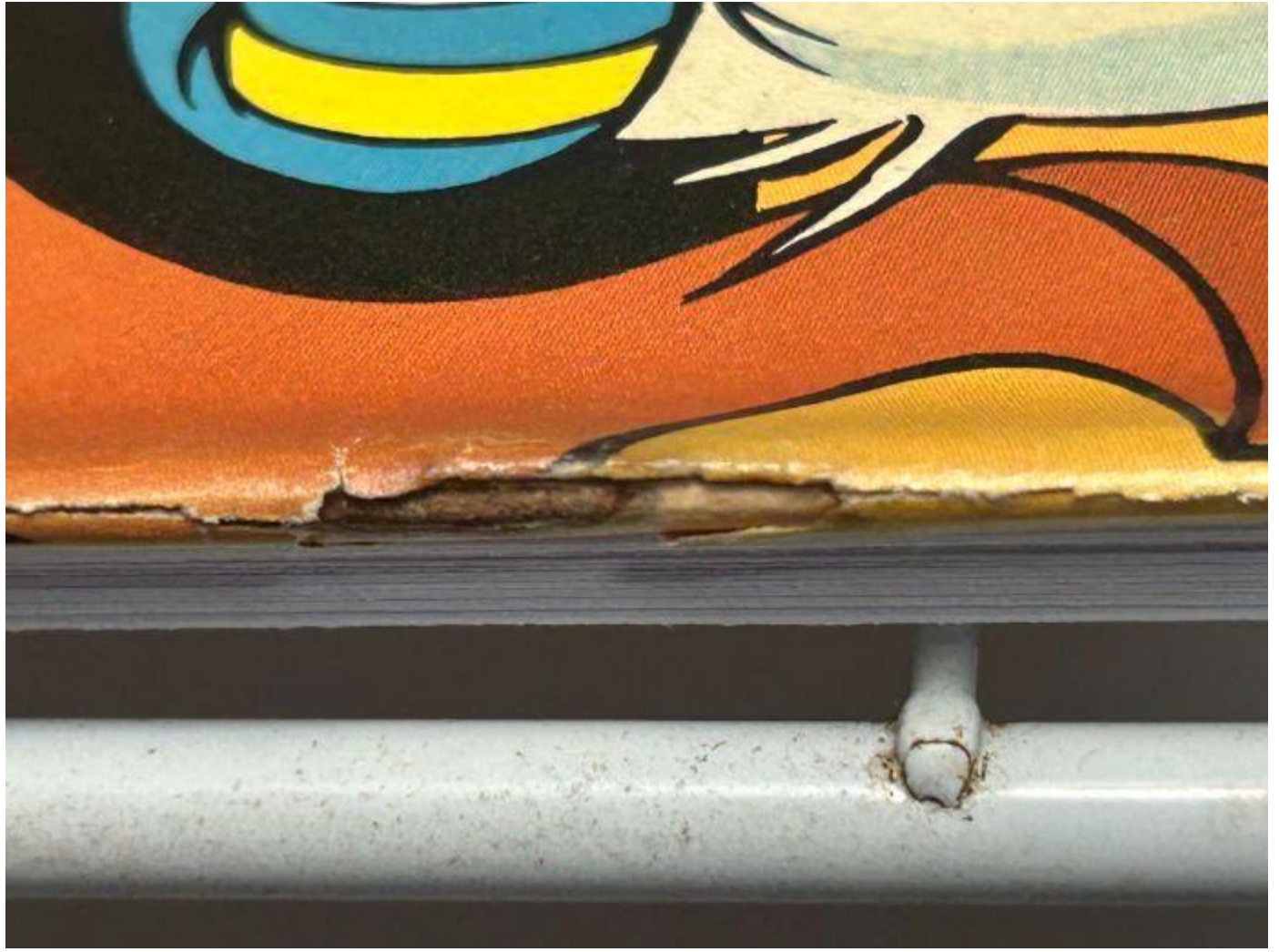
?

I SAW 'EM... ALL DECKED OUT
IN NEW DUDS... AND TH' KIDS
EATIN' LOLLIPOPS! WHAT
HAPPENED?

THE MICE
A HOWE DA
AND ROUND
BASKET C

THEY GOT HOMESICK FOR THE
BELLS AND WENT BACK TO
THEIR BELFRY!







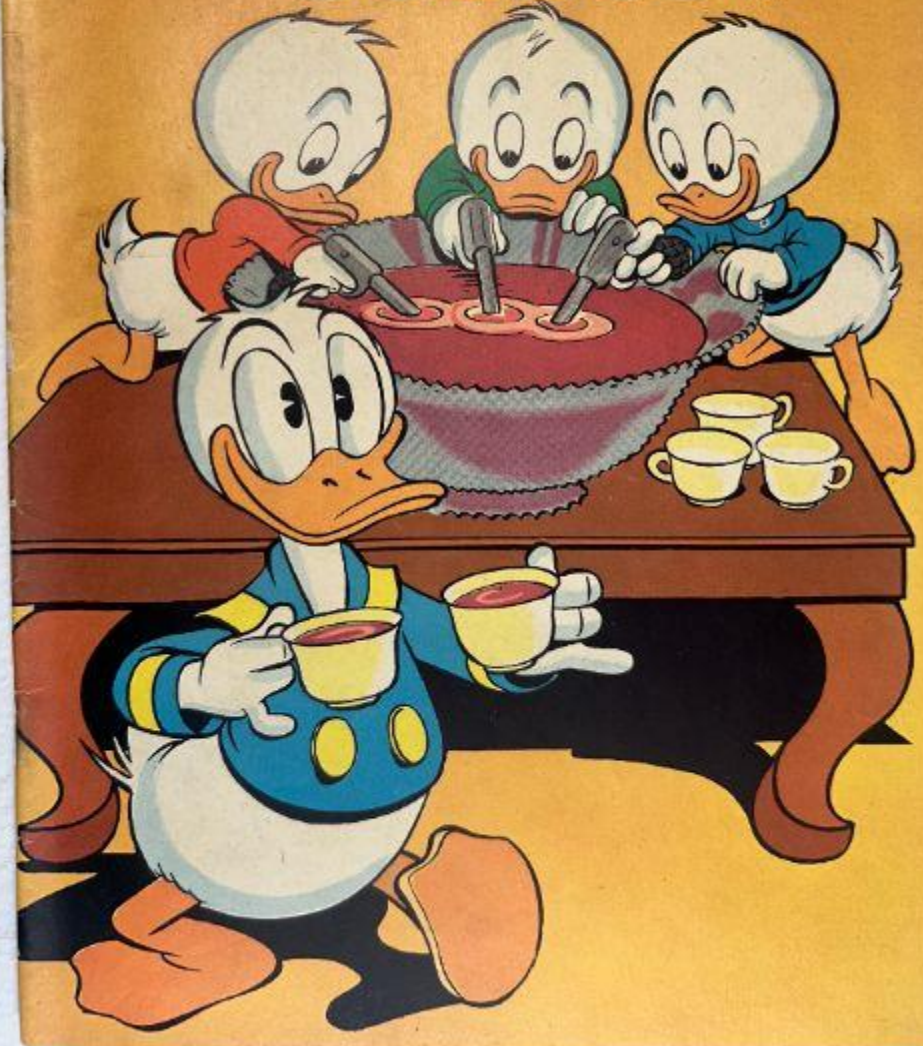


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