

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories – Vol. 4 No. 5 (February 1944)

Front Cover — Observations (IMG_1338)

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories – Vol. 4 No. 5 (February 1944)

Photo Condition & Quality

Clear, high-resolution image showing the full cover with even lighting and accurate color. Edges and spine area are fully visible.



Scene & Composition

Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck ride together on a sled descending a snowy slope. Mickey sits at the front holding the reins, while Donald, wearing a winter cap and scarf, clutches on behind him. The sled is decorated with red and green accents, and snow sprays outward to emphasize speed. The background features stylized blue snowbanks, distant evergreen trees, and a pale winter sky. The masthead *Walt Disney's COMICS AND STORIES* appears prominently at the top, with issue text at upper right reading **February 1944 – Vol. 4 No. 5 – 10¢**.

Physical Condition Findings

Multiple creases are visible across the cover, especially through the snowfield and lower half. The spine shows significant paper loss and splitting near the staple opening. Edges exhibit wear with small chips along the bottom margin. Corners are rounded, with the lower-left corner showing the heaviest wear. General surface scuffing and light soiling are present, most noticeable on the lighter blue snow areas.

Color & Printing Quality

Primary blues and reds remain reasonably strong, though dulled by age. The pale blue snow shows areas of rub wear and mild discoloration. Black outlines remain sharp with no noticeable registration issues.

Paper & Structural Notes

Paper shows moderate oxidation along all edges. The cover remains attached but structural integrity at the spine is compromised due to paper loss at the staple area.

Overall Impression

This cover presents well visually with lively winter action, but condition issues are dominated by spine deterioration, creasing, and edge wear. Despite these flaws, the artwork remains clear and appealing, with no major losses to the central imagery.

Back Cover — Observations (IMG_1339)

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Photo Condition & Quality

Clear, evenly lit image showing the full back cover including the subscription form and lower margin.



When wintry winds howl outside your window . . .

curl up for a comfortable evening

with **WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES** \$1.00 per year POSTPAID

Special Subscription Rates:

Two Years (24 big issues) only \$1.75

Three Years (36 big issues) only \$2.50

An all season, year-long laugh parade! Subscribe now!

DEPT. 2 **Mail to: K. K. PUBLICATIONS, Inc.** POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find \$_____ for which please enter the following subscription to **Walt Disney's Comics and Stories** for _____ monthly issues beginning with _____ issue. (Please print)

Name _____

Street and Number _____

City or Town _____ Mailing Dist. No. _____ State _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

HOWARD MERRILL
P. O. BOX 935
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.
4-44-1944

Scene & Composition

A subscription advertisement features winter-themed artwork showing Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and the nephews gathered indoors near a fireplace while snow falls outside a window. Promotional text encourages readers to subscribe to *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories*, with pricing details highlighted. The bottom portion contains a mail-in subscription form with address lines.

Physical Condition Findings

Surface wear is moderate to heavy, with widespread soiling across the tan background. The lower-left corner shows paper loss and creasing. Edges along the bottom and right margins are worn, with thinning paper and small chips. Several horizontal creases are visible through the subscription form.

Color & Printing Quality

Colors remain visible but muted, particularly reds and blues in the illustration. Background areas show significant age toning. Text remains fully legible.

Paper Condition

Uniform tan oxidation across the page. No evidence of moisture staining or rippling.

Overall Impression

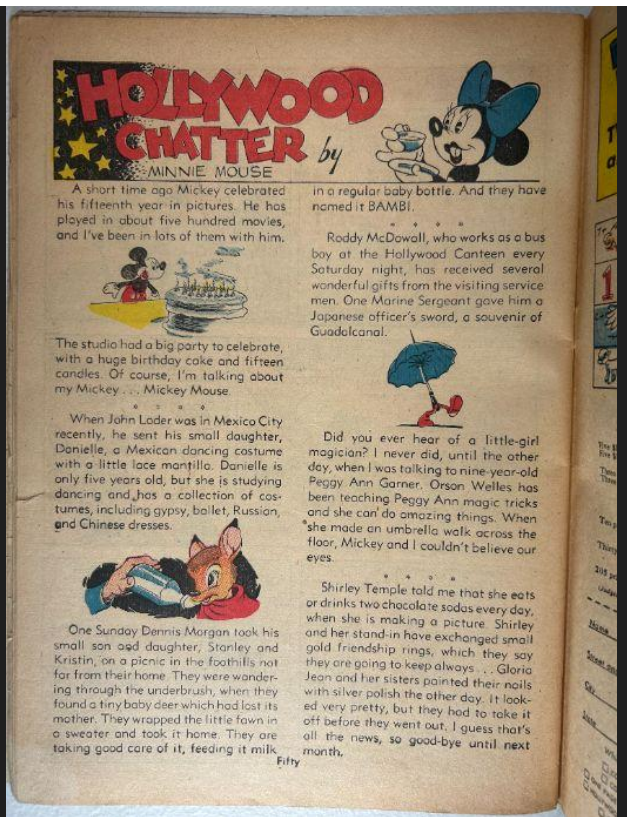
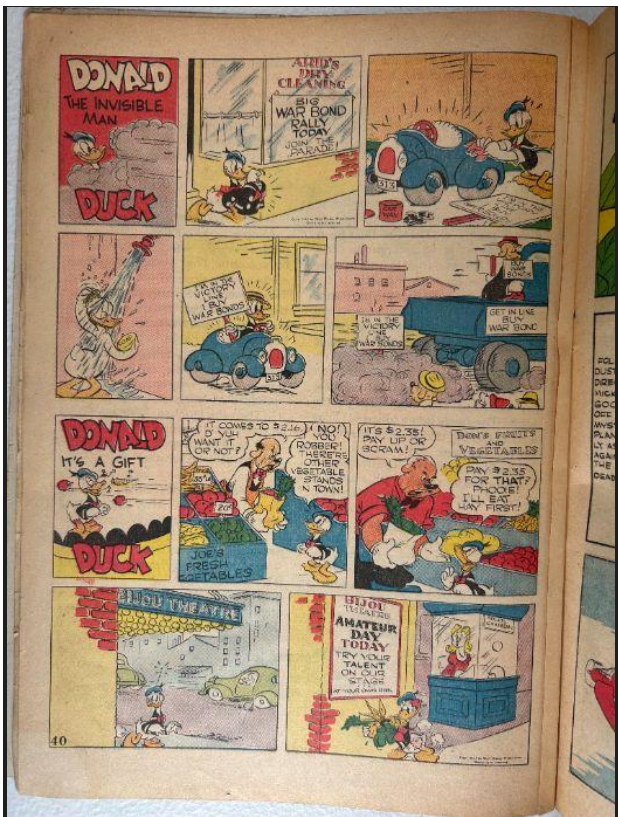
The back cover retains readable text and intact imagery but shows heavy handling wear, especially at the corners and lower edge. Aging and surface dirt are prominent but consistent with 1940s newsprint.

Interior Pages — Observations (IMG_1340–IMG_1344)

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Photo Condition & Quality

Interior images are clear and well lit, showing full panels, gutters, and margins.



Page Color

tan to medium brown

Interior Pages Findings

Artwork & Story Content

Interior content includes a continuation of a Mickey Mouse adventure featuring airplanes and prehistoric fantasy elements; Donald Duck stories tied to wartime themes such as war bonds and home-front activity; Bucky Bug comedy sequences; and an illustrated prose page titled *Hollywood Chatter* by Minnie Mouse. All major features appear present, with no missing story pages evident.

Individual Page Notes

- Some pages show heavier margin darkening near the outer edges, while others appear more evenly toned.
- Pages with heavier ink saturation show slightly better visual contrast than text-heavy prose pages.

Color & Printing Quality

Primary colors remain readable though subdued. Pastel backgrounds show noticeable fading. Halftone dot patterns are consistent with period Dell printing. Line art remains crisp.

Paper Condition

Moderate oxidation throughout with darker edges. Margin foxing is present. Minor corner creases and small edge nicks are visible. Slight natural waviness is present, attributable to age rather than moisture.

Structural Notes

Interior wraps remain firmly attached along the fold. No tearing or detachment is visible through the gutter. Paper remains flexible.

Overall Impression

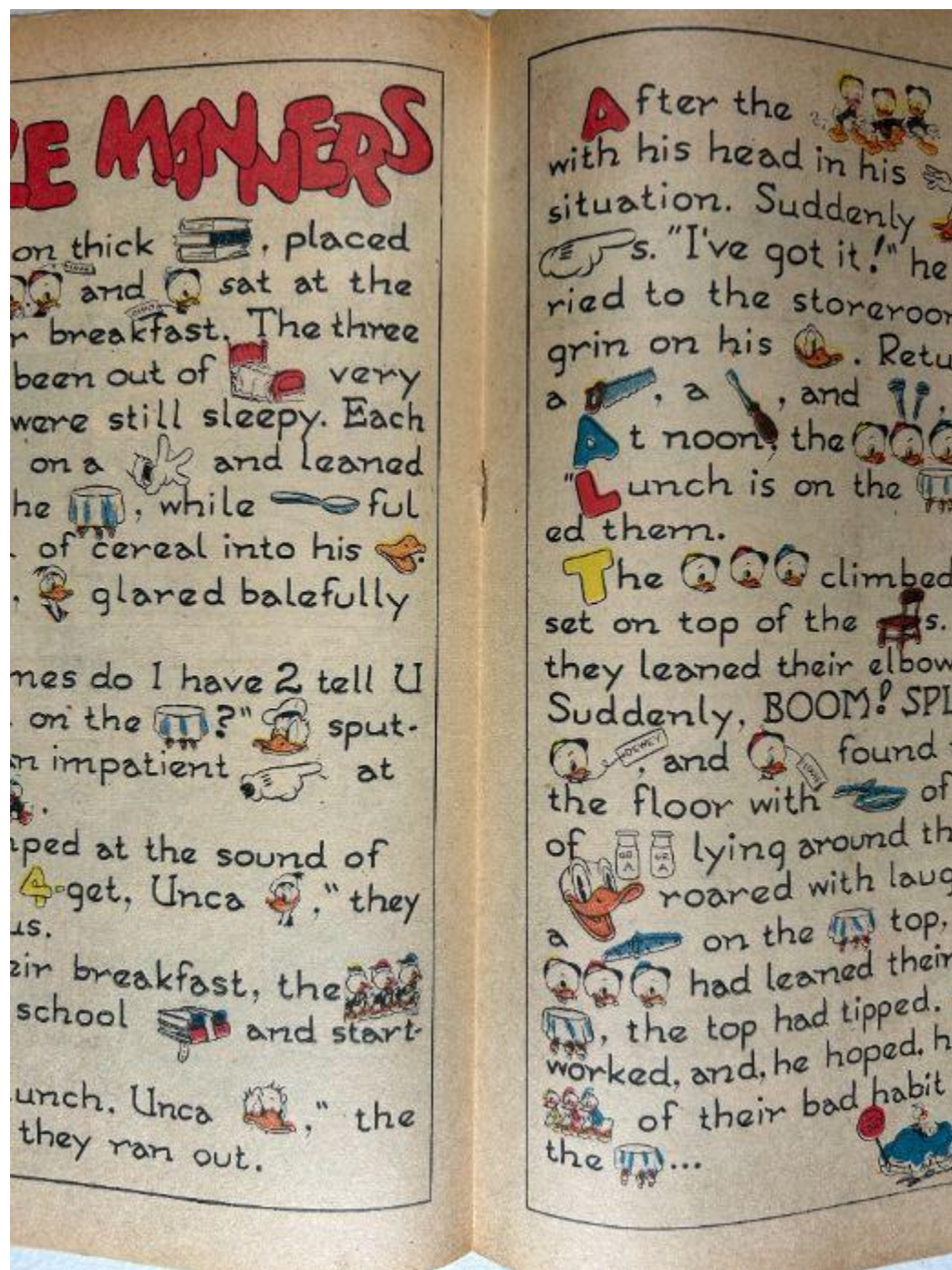
The interior is complete and structurally sound, with typical Golden Age toning and wear. Visual clarity remains good despite overall aging.

Centerfold — Observations (IMG_1345)

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Photo Condition & Quality

Clear two-page view with the center fold fully visible.



Physical Findings

The centerfold is intact and firmly attached along the fold. No lower staple is present, consistent with this issue's apparent single-staple construction. Paper shows even tan toning with a slightly darker fold line. No tearing or separation is visible; only light surface wrinkling is present.

Overall Impression

A solid, intact centerfold with good structural strength and no signs of stress or detachment.

Spine — Observations (IMG_1346)

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Photo Condition & Quality

Clear side-profile image showing the full spine edge and cover thickness.



Structural Findings

Moderate to heavy paper loss is visible along the spine, concentrated near the single staple location. Several splits and exposed paper layers are present. The spine shows a noticeable forward roll but remains aligned overall.

Surface Condition

Heavy abrasion with complete loss of original gloss. Fibers are exposed along much of the spine.

Overall Impression

The spine is structurally weakened but still holding the book together. Wear is consistent with a heavily handled Golden Age comic produced with a single staple.

Upper Staple — Observations (IMG_1347)

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Photo Condition & Quality

Clear macro image showing the staple area and surrounding paper fibers.



Staple Findings

Tearing surrounds the staple entry point with enlarged slot wear. The metal staple shows moderate oxidation. Surrounding paper fibers are frayed and partially delaminated, with localized loss of printed surface color.

Overall Impression

The upper staple remains functional but provides limited support due to surrounding paper deterioration.

Lower Staple — Observations (IMG_1348)

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Photo Condition & Quality

Clear image of the lower spine region.



Staple Findings

No lower staple is present. The lower spine fold and centerfold area remain intact with no tearing, separation, or reinforcement visible.

Overall Impression

This issue appears to have been manufactured with a single staple; the lower fold area is structurally sound.

Brittleness Test — Observations (IMG_1349)

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Photo Condition & Quality

Clear macro image capturing the flex of a page corner.



Findings

The page bends with some stiffness but without cracking or flaking. The paper exhibits dryness consistent with oxidation yet retains flexibility.

Overall Impression

Paper shows advanced aging but has not crossed into true brittleness. Careful handling is recommended to avoid future cracking.