

## **It Was a Big Hit**

**by Kern Hagg**

(#15 of Series)

I believe it was in the summer of 1960 when the Arlington Market had its Grand Opening at the northwest corners of Dryden and Kensington. There was a great deal of hoopla including American flags, balloons, streamers, etc. Sitting at a table just outside the new Jewel grocery store was Cubs' rookie Ron Santo. We rode our bikes just those few blocks so that we could hopefully attain his autograph. The line was about 50 feet long, but it moved fairly quickly, and when we finally reached the table, Ron was signing 8 x 10 black glossy photographs, and he would ask our names and include them with his signature.

At the time, I was 12-years old, and my brother, Steve, was 10. We were very much into baseball cards, Little League baseball games, and, of course, Cubs and Sox baseball on TV. Back then, Grampa Hagg took his grandsons to a Cubs game when bleacher seats were 50 cents each, and you could buy a hotdog and a Coke for 50 cents combined. No one knew then that Ron Santo would eventually become a Hall of Fame 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman for the Cubs and later for the White Sox, but it was the closest we had ever been to a baseball player, and it was a moment we would never forget.