They took it to the streets on June 7, 1937.

Following Flint’s example, Lansing Amalgamated UAW Local 182 concluded a successful a sit-down strike at Reo in April 1937. A subsequent effort to organize Capital City Wrecking Company resulted in the firing of workers, picket lines and an injunction. When union president Lester Washburn ignored the injunction, Sheriff Allan MacDonald came to arrest him at 2:00 A.M. Washburn wasn’t home, so the sheriff arrested his wife and took her to jail, leaving their three children with a neighbor girl. When morning came, 2,000–5,000 people took to the streets in support of the union.

"So then we called the plant managers of all the plants and told ’em... what happened and told ’em what we was gonna do about it."

Lester Washburn, President
Amalgamated Local 182

Remembering organizing the Labor Holiday

YOU AUTO KNOW

The Lansing Labor Holiday was one of the few general strikes in American history. In a general strike, the populace joins with strikers in closing businesses and stopping work.