

*Mrs Souter of
Ballinturnish Lodge
this Mrs S's
husband's mother*

Death of Mrs Cathie Souter

CATHIE SOUTER, the mother of the founders of Britain's most successful transport company, has died peacefully in her home. She was 93.

Cathie was the mother of Brian Souter and Ann Gloag, who launched Stagecoach in the 1980s, as well as David, the minister at Kinnoull Church in Perth.

Born in Perth, Mrs Souter never moved from the Fair City, with family and religion forming the main pillars of her life.

Before she became involved in the activities of her children, she had been involved in the transport industry, marrying bus driver Iain in 1941 and running a "berry bus" for the fruit pickers from the Letham estate where she lived to Blairgowrie.

When Stagecoach boomed, tales of how she had helped on the multinational's first buses, mak-

ing tea and sandwiches for the passengers, emerged.

Her other great love was religion and she was a life-long worshipper at the Trinity Church of the Nazarene in York Place.

She first met Iain there in 1938 after he moved from Strathardle, continuing to attend services right up to her death.

In June, 2001, the couple celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and stopped traffic as they made their way to the church for a special service.

Mr and Mrs Souter remained in Perth until late last year when they moved to their daughter's new home at Kinfauns Castle.

Last night son Brian said, "She was like a matriarch because she was the last of a large family and was like the glue that kept everyone together.

"At her diamond wedding, over 60 of the family came over from Canada.

"She had a very good and worthwhile life and made a positive contribution to everything she was involved in."

She is survived by Iain and her three children as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A service of thanksgiving will be held at the church on Wednesday.