

# Weekender

Thursday, November 1, 1979



Photos by Andy James



*Neonatal treatment at N.C. Memorial Hospital combines complex technical equipment and intricate specialized skills with lots of tender loving care*

## Premies Think Big

By PAM KELLEY

A poster near the special bassinet where Brandy sleeps proclaims, "Think big."

It's message is especially relevant to her. At birth Brandy weighed almost two pounds, but like most babies she lost some weight shortly after she was born. Now, at three months, she weighs almost three pounds. She's less than a foot long, and she reminds one more of a child's doll than a new born baby.

Brandy was born about three and a half months early. She is connected by tiny tubes to machines which help her live. Her systems weren't ready to function on their own.

Ten or 20 years ago, Brandy would not have survived. Today statistics show that children such as Brandy have a 95 percent survival rate.

Brandy is staying in the neonatal intensive care unit at N.C. Memorial Hospital. In that 12-bed unit are infants who, for a variety of reasons, need serious medical care. Some are premature and too small to survive on their own. Some were born with genetic defects

which must be corrected with surgery. Others were born retarded, and a few have problems caused by mothers who used alcohol or drugs during pregnancy.

N.C. Memorial also has a 14-bed neonatal intermediate care unit for babies who don't require as much as serious medical care as those in the intensive care unit. Both units are filled with

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